DARK HORSE COMICS

DC

DARK HORSE COMICS/DC COMICS CROSSOVERS

FEATURING
The Joker
Lobo
Grifter

THE MASK®

JOHN ARCUDI
ALAN GRANT
HENRY GILROY
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RAMON BACHS

DARK HORSE COMICS/DC COMICS

THE MASK®

DARK HORSE COMICS/DC COMICS

THE MASK®

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DARK HORSE COMICS/DC COMICS: THE MASK
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HAD ENOUGH?

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BUT WHO'S GOT TIME TO READ THESE DAYS?!

RF
BACHS
'99

JOKER/MASK #1–#4

Story
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GOTHAM CITY MUSEUM OF ART

Kids Night

THE DIRT

DUSK

ORIGIN: UNKNOWN

DING

THIRD FLOOR.

LADIES' LINGERIE, OVERRATED ARTS AND CRAFTS, AND STUFF I WANNA BLOW UP.

HAHAHAHA

AN EVENING AT THE MUSEUM! YOU REALLY SPOIL A GIRL, MISTAH J.

AND WHY NOT, MY LI'L PUMPKIN PIE? WITH A THOUSAND GRINS TO GREET US, IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER...

...EXCEPT FOR MY SUIT. YOU DIDN'T PRESS IT, DID YA, HARL?

IT WAS EITHER PRESS THE SUIT OR DO THE BOMBS, MISTAH J.

I DID THE BOMBS.

OH. AND WHERE'S THE REST OF THE GANG? WEREN'T THEY SUPPOSED TO MEET US AT THE MUSEUM?

MUSEUM? OOH, I THOUGHT YOU SAID MAUSOLEUM.

FWAP

YOU ARE THE LAST TIME I HIRE A WANNABE FOOTBALL PLAYER!

HEY, I COULDA GONE PRO.

SURE, GENIUS.

WE'RE OFF TO A SHAKY START, TROOPS, BUT THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

FOR I AM ABOUT TO BLOW UP THIS MUSEUM IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT IS FUNNY!

WHAT'S FUNNY ABOUT BLASTING A MUSEUM?

FOR THOSE WHO NEED THE JOKE EXPLAINED, WE'RE HERE TO GET RID OF THOSE...

...FROWNY CLOWN MASKS.

POSITIVELY BLASPHEMOUS.

SEE, YOU HAVE AN INHERENTLY FUNNY THING... A *CLOWN*. THEN SOME "ARTIST" GOES AND PAINTS A *FROWN* ON IT.

WHY?

IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE CUTE? IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE FUNNY?

KINDA MAKES ME SMILE, PUDDIN'.

SHUT UP, HARLEY!

IT'S *WRONG* ON SO MANY LEVELS AND TRYING *WAAYYY* TOO HARD TO BE FUNNY.

NOW BLASTING THOSE FROWNY CLOWNS TO PIECES...

...THAT IS COMEDY!

CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP

AND THIS JOKE HAS A SECOND PUNCH LINE. OBSERVE.

DIRECTLY BELOW THIS FLOOR, THE KIDDIES ARE LEARNING TO APPRECIATE THE FINER THINGS.

AND YOU SEE, I'M ALL FOR FILLING THE MINDS OF CHILDREN WITH ART.

AND WHAT BETTER WAY THAN WITH SHRAPNEL?

HAHAHA

THIS IS NOT A ROBBERY, SNUCK. THIS IS ABOUT MAKING A STATEMENT.

HARL, LET'S HAVE THE DETONATORS FOR THESE BOMBS, PRONTO!

DETONATORS? SO THAT'S WHAT THOSE THINGS STICKING OUT OF THESE DOOHICKEYS WERE.

I THOUGHT THEY SPOILED THE LOOK OF THE CUTE, HAPPY LI'L BOMBS.

WHAT?

NO DETONATORS! INCOMPETENT HENCHMEN! MY SUIT IS WRINKLED!

THE ALARM! WHO TRIPPED THE ALARM?

BUAH AHAH BU

THAT WOULD BE THE GENIUS HERE.

KIDS NIGHT

THE KIDDIES ARE GETTING AWAY!

GCPD

AND NOW THE COPS ARE HERE HERE TO RUIN MY FUN!

WAIT! WHERE'S THE SWAT TEAM? I DON'T SEE THE SWAT TEAM!

I DON'T EVEN RATE THE SWAT TEAM ANYMORE.

WHAT A DISASTER. I MUST BE LOSING MY TOUCH. I'M WASHED UP.

EVERY-THING'LL TURN OUT OKAY, PUDDIN'.

YEAH! THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS ROB THE PLACE AND BEAT IT, HUH, BOSS?

LIKE I SAID...

...THIS AIN'T ABOUT ROBBIN'!

FWAP

GAHH!

WHA'ZAT?!

VREEEEEEEEEEEE

LOOKIT ALL THE GOODIES!

THIS IS RICH!

MY MA WILL LIKE THIS!

OOH! SHINY!

I KNOW, I KNOW, BOSS, WE AIN'T HERE FOR NO ROBBERY...BUT LOOKY HERE! I GOT A BOMB!

I SEE THAT.

SO YA CAN BLOW THE PLACE UP LIKE YA PLANNED! SO WHATTAYA WANT I SHOULD DO NEXT, HEY-BOSS-HEY-BOSS-HEY?

FREEZE IT, CREEPS!

ALL RIGHT, SNUCKY... SCORE ONE FOR THE TEAM?

HEY! THAT TICKLES!

YOU GOT IT, BOSS!

WELL, I'LL BE!

WHUP

FIRST DOWN! HA!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

INTERCEPTED! HOO HOO HOO!

HEE HEE HE'S GOING DEEP!

THOOM!

TOUCHDOWN! HAHAHAHAHA

WOW!

THAT MASK HAS GOT SOME KINDA MOJO, eh, MISTAH J?

IT'S LIKE IT TAPS INTO THE UNCONSCIOUS, YOU KNOW, AND UNLEASHES THE PENT-UP SIDE OF A PERSON AND GIVES 'EM SUPER-POWERS N'STUFF... YOU THINK THAT'S HOW IT WORKS, MISTAH J?

HAHAHA

HAHAHA! WHO CARES HOW IT WORKS? IT WORKS!

SNUCK, THAT WAS GREAT! THE BEST THING ALL NIGHT! THIS MASK OF YOURS MEANS BIG STUFF FOR US!

SO NOW I'LL GET THAT RAISE AND PLAY SOME FOOTBALL AND YOU AND ME CAN BE PARTNERS!

PARTNERS?

uh-oh.

PARTNERS, YEAAAAH. I CAN SEE US ALL OVER THE NEWS! "JOKER, SNUCK AND CO." YOU AND ME, SIDE BY SIDE! COMPADRES! FIFTY-FIFTY ALL THE WAY!

SO LET'S TAKE A PICTURE!

WHOA! MOM WON'T RECOGNIZE YA WITH THAT MASK ON, PARTNER. TAKE IT OFF! HURRY, TIMER'S BEEPING!

OKIE-DOKIE, PARTNER!

CANYON

BAM

I'm... shot.

OOH. THAT'S A SHAME SNUCKY OL' BOY. I'M AFRAID OUR PARTNERSHIP ISN'T GOING TO LAST, WHAT WITH YER MEDICAL PROBLEMS AND ALL.

STILL, AS A SENIOR PARTNER, YOU GOT *THIS* COMING...

KRSHH

YER GOLDEN PARACHUTE!

HAHAHAHA!

CRUNK

Jes' wanted ta be partners...

HAHAHAHA

YOU GONNA PUT IT ON, PUDDIN'? LOOKS LIKE GOOD CLEAN FUN TO ME!

IT COULD MANIFEST ANYTHING I WANT FROM THIN AIR!

YOU JUST THINK AND THERE IT IS!

IT WOULD MAKE ME INVULNERABLE.

NOTHING CAN STOP YOU FROM DOING ANYTHING!

YOU'RE RIGHT, HARL! I CAN BE ALL THAT I CAN BE...

AND MORE!

MORE? I DON'T WANNA LOSE MY PUDDIN'.

DON'T YOU WORRY, HARLEY QUINN. I'LL NEVER CHANGE.

I BELIEVE IT.

IT'S HIM... IT'S...

I KNOW WHO IT IS. UNINVITED COMPANY.

AND HONEY, I CAN'T VERY WELL GREET COMPANY WITHOUT MY BEST FACE ON!

WHEEE!

Puddin?

VEEEEEEEE

GET OUT OF HERE.

GC PD

YELLOW SUIT. CHECK! BIG HEAD. CHECK! LOOSY GOOSY WITH THAT "JUST-SPRITZED" FRESHNESS!

BUT SOMETHING'S MISSING...

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! BEAUTIFUL!

WRACK

HAD ENOUGH?

BATTY, OL' BOY, I'M JUST GETTIN' STARTED!

WHUD

YOU KNOW... I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SHARE THE POWER OF LAUGHTER WITH YOU.

AND NOW'S MY CHANCE!

HA!

UGH!

HA HA HA! THE BEST COMEDY IS THE COMEDY THAT SURPRISES YA!

ONLY YOU'RE NOT LAUGHING, BATMAN. YOU BIG POOPY DIAPER BABY!

BEFORE WE GET STARTED...HARLEY, HOW ABOUT A LITTLE MOTIVATIONAL CHEER?

SURE, PUDDIN'!

GIMME A J!

J!

GIMME AN O!

OHHH!

GIMME A K!

WHUMP

K!

GIMME AN E!

KRAK!

EEEE!

THWAK

GIMME AN R!

ARRR!

JOKER!

AND WHAT'S THAT SPELL?

WHUD WHUD WHUD

ooo

YOOOOY YAAAAY, PUDDIN'!

RF BACHS 2000

THAT WAS EASY, HON. THE POWER OF LAUGHTER...

...IT'S FANTASTIC!

THIRD FLOOR

HAHAHAHAHA

AW, NO YA DON'T! YER NOT GETTIN' AWAY FROM ME THIS TIME!

...uhh...

1-2-3-4-5-
6-7-8-9-10!
READY OR NOT,
HERE I COME!

HAHAHA

HARLEY,
YOU'RE GONNA
HAVE'TA
DRIVE...

...'CAUSE I GOT
SHOTGUN!!

FASTER, HARLEY! FASTER!

HAHAHAHAHAHAH

TAG! YOU'RE IT!

HAHAHA

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

KAFWOOM!

KRUNCH

SPLOOSH!

POOR BATTY, HE JUST DIDN'T GET THE JOKE.

SNIF SNIF

HAHAHAHA!

I LIKE THE NEW YOU, PUDDIN'! YOU'RE SO SPONTANEOUS!

GET USED TO IT, HARL! 'CAUSE THE NEW MISTAH J IS HERE TO STAY!

HAHAHAHAHA!

RF BACHS '99

YOU NEED THE BIGGEST GUN!

CHARLIE CHUCKLES CANDY COMPANY

THIS IS AN ACCESS GOTHAM BREAKING NEWS REPORT...

I'M JESSICA PLATINUM. THE CRIMINAL KNOWN ONLY AS BIGHEAD STRUCK AGAIN TONIGHT.

ACCESS GOTHAM

HIS NAME ISN'T BIGHEAD... IT'S MR. J, YA STUPID BIMBO!

GUMM! MEN

SOUR SPHERES

CRUNCH FROGS

THE NOW-INFAMOUS BIGHEAD FIRST APPEARED IN GOTHAM CITY THREE DAYS AGO, AND IS BELIEVED TO BE CONNECTED WITH THE NOTORIOUS JOKER.

HE IS THE JOKER, TOOTS!

BIGHEAD'S APPEARANCE WAS MARKED BY A WILD CHASE WITH THE BATMAN, WHICH CLIMAXED WHEN THE DARK KNIGHT'S CAR SLAMMED INTO THE BAY.

BATMAN HASN'T BEEN SPOTTED SINCE.

SINCE THEN, THE METAHUMAN BIGHEAD, HAS RAMPAGED THROUGH GOTHAM, ROBBING EVERY MAJOR BANK IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA.

TONIGHT HE ATTACKED ARKHAM ASYLUM WITH A FIRE BOMB.

HIS OVERHEARD MOTIVE--FOR "OLD TIMES' SAKE."

BANK

OOG. TOO MUCH CANDY CORN.

THE REAL QUESTION IS... WHO IS BIGHEAD?

BLURGLE

AND EVEN IF HIS IDENTITY IS DISCOVERED, CAN THE POLICE STOP HIM?

BLARF

GOTHAM CITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO STOP HIM.

SO I'VE BROUGHT IN HELP. THIS IS LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY OUT OF EDGE CITY P.D. HE'S HAD EXPERIENCE WITH BIGHEAD.

SO HOW'D YOU STOP HIM?

WE COULDN'T. ONCE WE REALIZED HE WAS UNSTOPPABLE, WE JUST TRIED TO CONTAIN HIM.

I ADVISE YOU TO DO THE SAME.

THE PROBLEM WITH THAT PLAN IS THAT BIGHEAD IS WORKING WITH THE JOKER, WHOSE INSANITY WILL ESCALATE IN SCALE UNTIL PEOPLE DIE.

BIGHEAD HAS THE SAME CRAZY M.O. IN EDGE CITY. MAYBE HE'S NOT CONNECTED TO THE JOKER AFTER ALL.

I'M TELLING YOU, IF IT WASN'T FOR THE SUPERPOWERS AND THE BIG GREEN HEAD, I'D SWEAR WE WERE DEALING WITH THE JOKER HIMSELF.

THE JOKER HAS THE MASK!

BETTER KEEP A LID ON IT IF I'M GONNA GET THAT STUPID PIECE OF WOOD OFF THE STREETS.

IF BIGHEAD'S PART OF A BIGGER JOKER SCHEME, OUR BEST HOPE IS STILL WITH BATMAN'S HELP.

BATS PANCAKED HIS CAR INTO THE BAY, COMMISH. NOBODY KNOWS IF HE EVEN MADE IT.

HE MADE IT.

BATMAN!

WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

BATMAN IS DEAD! THAT'S THE JOKE! HAHAHA

WHAT? NOBODY'S LAUGHING.

LET HIM HAVE IT.

YOU COPS NEVER GET TIRED FIRING YOUR BIG GUNS, DO YA? I WONDER WHAT DR. FREUDY WOULD SAY ABOUT THAT?

ME... I JUST CHALK IT UP TO OUR VIOLENT CULTURE.

AND SPEAKING OF VIOLENCE, I COULD BE OH SO VIOLENT WITH YOU ALL... BUT THEN IT'D BE SO DARNED DULL AROUND HERE. MAYBE I SHOULDN'T'A WASTED BATS AFTER ALL.

CLICK CLICK

OW! DO I LOOK LIKE SUPERMAN TO YOU?

KONK

YOU ALWAYS WERE WHITE AND UPTIGHT, HARV!

'BOUT TIME WE MADE IT OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE! HEEHEEHEE!

LIKE HARVEY'S UNDERWEAR, THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO ONCE MORE CREEP BACK INTO THE SHADOWS, BECAUSE...

...I AM BATMAN!

CRASH

DON'T WORRY! I'M OKAY!

THAT VOICE! IT HAS TO BE THE JOKER!

DO YOU THINK HE WAS LYING? ABOUT BATMAN?

I DON'T KNOW...

HAHAHAHA

IT'S A MIRACLE, REALLY. HOW YOU MANAGED TO MAKE IT HOME BEFORE COLLAPSING. NOTHING NEW, MIND YOU...

THE CRACKED RIBS. THE DISLOCATED SHOULDER. THE MULTIPLE CONTUSIONS. AND LET US NOT FORGET A SERIOUS CONCUSSION.

STILL, YOU ARE ALIVE. AND ONE CAN ONLY HOPE YOUR AIRBAG RECEIVES ITS DUE GRATITUDE WHEN YOU AWAKEN.

IF YOU AWAKEN...

MR. J! YOU'RE HOME!

HOW WAS WORK, PUDDIN'?

BORING. I'VE ROBBED EVERY BANK IN TOWN...TWICE. IT'S SOOO TWO-FACE. BATMAN'S DEAD. NOBODY OUT THERE TO EVEN TRY TO STOP ME.

I'LL TELL YA, PUMPKIN PIE, DADDY REALLY HAD TO WORK FOR A LAUGH TODAY.

CLUNK

DOES DADDY NEED SOME WHOOPIE CUSHION THERAPY? HOW 'BOUT WE TRY IT WITHOUT THE MASK THIS TIME?

THE MASK NEVER COMES OFF.

'KAY.

THIS IS AN ACCESS GOTHAM NEWS BREAK!

BIGHEAD HAS STRUCK AGAIN, BOLDLY ATTACKING POLICE HEADQUARTERS!

BIGHEAD? BIGHEAD?

OH, YEAH, IT'S WHAT THEY CALL YA. IT'S LIKE THEY DON'T KNOW IT'S YOU UNDER... THE GREEN.

BIGHEAD

DON'T KNOW IT'S ME? WHO ELSE GIVES A POLICE DETECTIVE A WEDGIE?

PREACHIN' TO THE CHOIR, PUDDIN'.

IF GOTHAM CITY IS THAT STUPID OR HARD OF HEARING, IT'S TIME I TURNED UP THE VOLUME AND GAVE THIS TOWN A PERSONAL RE-INTRODUCTION...

...TO THE NEW-AND-IMPROVED JOKER!

ACCESS GOTHAM

SOMEBODY GET ME THE BLONDE FROM THE TV OR WE FIND OUT IF THIS SECURITY GUARD CAN FLY.

FOUND THE BIM, MR. J!

ACCESS GOTHAM

YOU'RE THE GIRL ON THE TELEVISION TELLING EVERYONE I'M BIGHEAD. WHY?

T-THAT'S WHAT THEY CALLED YOU IN EDGE CITY. W-WHO ARE YOU?

I'M THE JOKER, YOU IDIOT.

Oh my g-g-g...

NO, IT'S JOKER, WITH A J-J-J.

I AM HERE TO MAKE CERTAIN THE BRAND RECOGNITION OF THE JOKER - THAT'S ME - IS CLEAR WITH MY PUBLIC.

AND YOU GET TO HELP ME.

GOOD EVENING, FRIENDS. I, THE CRIMINAL FORMERLY KNOWN AS BIGHEAD, HAVE COME INTO YOUR HOMES TONIGHT TO REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY.

SOME CALL ME THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME, SOME CALL ME PSYCHO FREAK FROM HELL, AND OTHERS STILL, INMATE NUMBER 706429. MOST, HOWEVER, SIMPLY REFER TO ME AS...

...THE JOKER!

HAHAHA

AH, CRIMINEY.

CAT'S OUTTA THE BAG.

THAT'S RIGHT, KIDDIES! HE'S THE SAME OLD LOVABLE MR. J, BUT IN A BRAND-NEW SPANKY GREEN WRAPPER!

B-DEE B-DEE B-DEE... THAT'S ALL, FOLKS! HAHAHAHA!

THIS DOESN'T BODE WELL.

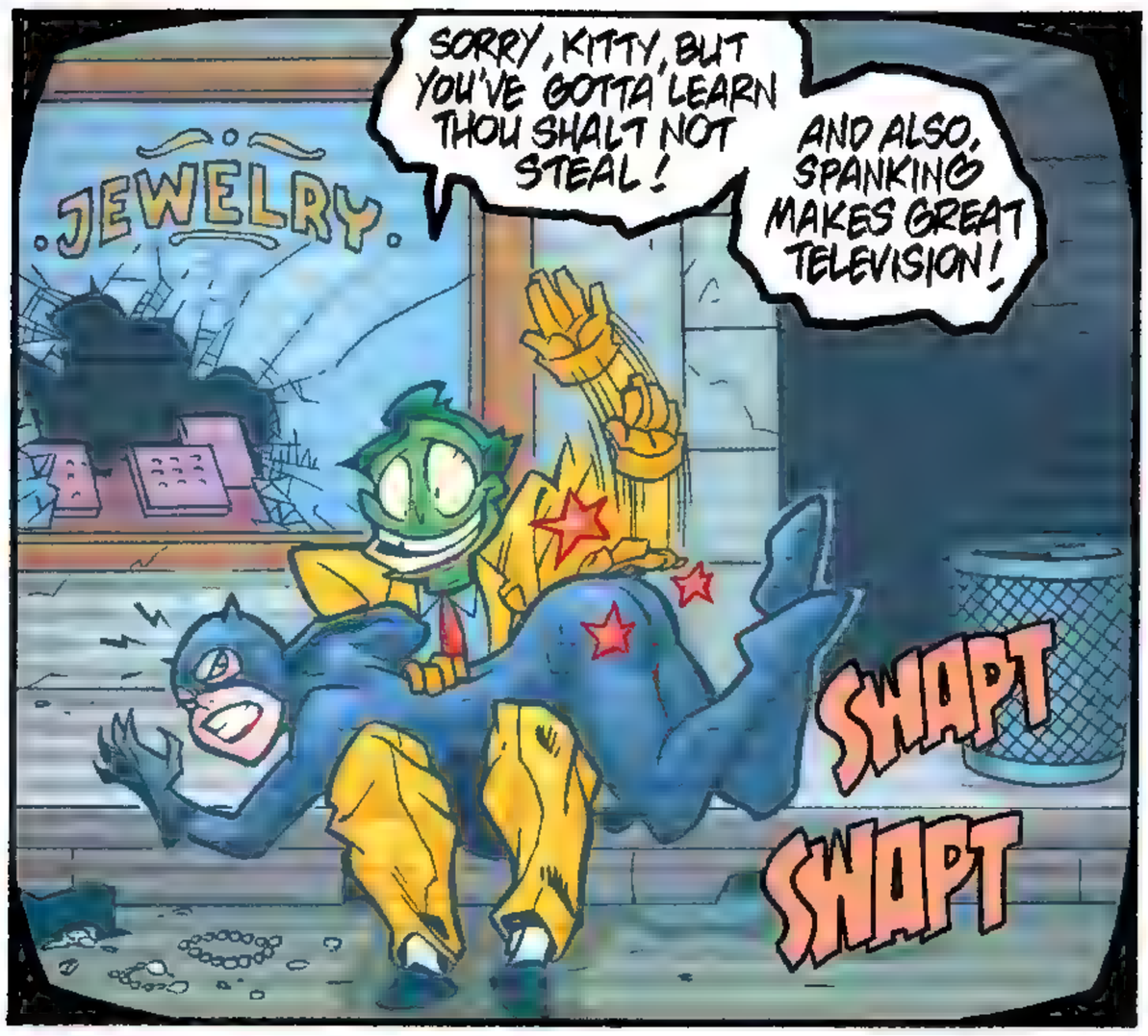
I LOOK GREAT ON TV! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE? TELEVISION HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY GREATEST ALLY!

WHAT ABOUT ME?

...HAHAHA HAHA!

HARLEY, OLD GIRL, I JUST DISCOVERED A POSITIVELY SWELL WAY TO SHARE MY BRILLIANT BRAND OF COMEDY WITH THE WORLD! YOU AND ME ARE TAKIN' OUR SHOW TO THE STREETS!

OH, AND JESSICA, IF YOU BUMP ME OFF THE AIR, I'LL BE BACK TO BUMP YOU OFF! HEEHEEHEEHEE!

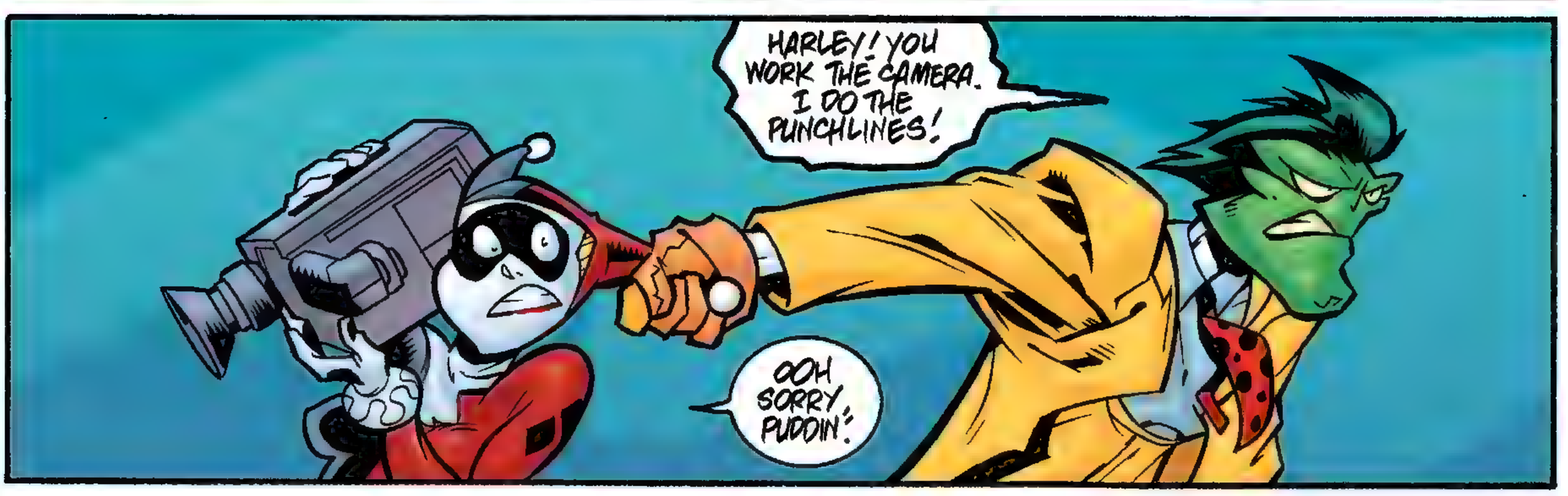

JEWELRY
SORRY, KITTY, BUT YOU'VE GOTTA LEARN THOU SHALT NOT STEAL!
AND ALSO, SPANKING MAKES GREAT TELEVISION!
SWAPT
SWAPT

CUT! CUT! CUT!

WHEN I SAY CUT, BY CHAPLIN'S GHOST I MEAN CUT!
YOU GOT IT, MR. J!

THIS MIME DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT WE'RE PUTTIN' A 'SPLODY IN HIS PANTS JUST FOR CHUCKLES!
LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A LAND-MIME! TEE-HEE!
WHUM


HARLEY! YOU WORK THE CAMERA. I DO THE PUNCHLINES!
OOH SORRY, PUDDIN'!

HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW RIGHT HE IS!

THE END IS NEAR

THIS REALLY IS THE BEST USE OF A SAFE... AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT UNDER IT!

HAHAHA

HARLEY, KEEP THE CAMERA ON ME! THE PEOPLE WANNA SEE ME!

OKIE-DOKIE... huff... BOSS.

THESE LAWYERS ARE TRYING TO SUE ME FOR $2.1 MILLION. IT'S TIME I SETTLED UP!

DINI, TIMM & STRADLEY

GET ALONG, LI'L LAWYERS, GET ALONG!

HAHAHA

YOU KNOW, HARL, I'VE DISCOVERED THAT EXPLOSIONS GIVE YA THE MOST BANG FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT BUCK. HOP-TO, OLD GIRL, THERE'S MORE STUFF NEEDS BLOWING UP REAL GOOD!

comin'.

WHOOM

GOTHAM SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

DON'T WORRY, NOBODY HEARD A THING! HAHAAHAA!

TNT

THE BRAILLE INSTITUTE

NEVER SAW ME COMING!

TNT

MANTICORE RECORDS

COME ALONG, HARL, THERE'S A FLAMMABLE-LOOKING ORPHANAGE RIGHT DOWN THE STREET!

HOW 'BOUT A BREAK, PUDDIN'?

THIS AIN'T A UNION GIG! GET OFF YER LAZY HEINIE AND FIRE UP THAT CAMERA! MY AUDIENCE AWAITS!

WHAT THE FISH IS THAT?

BIGHEAD RULES, JOKER SUCKS

COME BACK HERE! I'LL SUE!

TARGET TOOK THE BAIT. THREE HUNDRED YARDS AND CLOSING. ALL UNITS STAND BY.

THE NATIONAL GUARD REALLY CAME THROUGH, eh, COMMISH?

LET'S HOPE IT'S ENOUGH.

THIS IS A MISTAKE. IT'S GONNA BE A MASSACRE.

`BOUT TIME. THIS FREAK HAS THE BIG HURT COMING FROM WAY BACK.

YOU DON'T GET IT. HE'S GONNA BE DOING THE HURTING.

WHY DO I GET THE FEELING HE KNOWS MORE THAN HE'S SAYING?

HOLEY GUACAMOLE.

WELL, WELL, WELL... I FINALLY GOT MY SWAT TEAM!

Yipe!

PIN HIM DOWN!

AAGH! DEATH BY CHEWING GUM! HAHAHAHA

LIGHT HIM UP!

HEEE HEEE HEEE! I SHOULD WARN YOU, THIS DIDN'T WORK AT ARKHAM!

ORDNANCE. TAKE YOUR SHOT.

NOW THIS IS LOOKING DOWN THE BARREL OF A LOADED GUN! HAHAHA

KATHOOM

DIRECT HIT! YOU GOT HIM!

IS THIS WHAT YOU CALL A SHOOT FIRST, ASK QUESTIONS LATER STRATEGY?

DEAR GOD.

YOU POLICE! ALWAYS WITH YOUR GUNS! YOU CAN'T SOLVE A PROBLEM WITH JUST A GUN!

YOU NEED THE BIGGEST GUN!

KABLOOM

BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM

KA-THOOM

SO MUCH FOR THE SWAT TEAM! HAHAHA!

HEE HEE HEE... BOY, I MADE A MESS.

NO. THE MASK MADE THIS MESS. THE MASK YOU'RE WEARING.

WELL, WELL, WELL, SOMEBODY KNOWS MY LITTLE SECRET.

GIVE ME THE MASK OR IT WILL DESTROY YOU. FOR EVERY PERSON WHO'S EVER PUT IT ON, IT'S LED TO DESTRUCTION.

YOU'RE RIGHT. PROBLEM IS...

I LIKE DESTRUCTION! NOW BEAT IT, COPPER! HAHAHAAA!

AND YOU! DROPPING THE CAMERA AND RUNNING!

I'M SORRY, MR. J, REALLY...

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SORRY--TELL THEM! MY PEOPLE! SOME CAMERA GIRL YOU ARE! POOOO!

WELL YOU SAW IT HERE FIRST FOLKS, THE END OF THE FUZZ, THE HEAT, THE OINKERS, THE COPS, THE PO-LICE.

ANYBODY ELSE TRIES TO STOP MY SHOW... THEY GET THE SAME. NIGHTY-NIGHT, GOTHAM! HEE HEE HEE!

LAST THING MASTER BRUCE NEEDS TO HEAR IS THIS RUBBISH.

NO...

...LEAVE IT ON.

SLEEPING BEAUTY HAS AWAKENED! ARE YOU WELL, MASTER BRUCE?

WELL ENOUGH TO WATCH A LITTLE TELEVISION.

THIS IS AMAZING! I'VE NEVER WORKED ON A SHOW THAT DOMINATED 100% OF THE MARKET!

IN ENGLISH, JESSICA.

EVERY AFFILIATE IN THE COUNTRY WANTS YOUR SHOW! THE WORLD WANTS TO SEE THE JOKER!

WE'RE A HIT, PUDDIN'!

HARLEY, YOU'RE TO CALL ME "MR. J" OR JUST "MR. JOKER" FROM NOW ON.

YES. I AGREE. DEFINITELY LOSE THE WHOLE "PUDDIN'" THING.

FROM THIS MOMENT, I'M ON TWENTY-FOUR/SEVEN. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO JUST BE FUNNY ANYMORE, IT'S TIME TO TAKE MY RIGHTFUL PLACE AS A REGULAR ENTERTAINMENT LEGEND! HAHAHAHA!

AND NOW THAT I'M GOING GLOBAL, I'LL WANT SOME SERIOUS PRODUCTION VALUES.

THAT MEANS SOME CHANGES ARE GONNA BE MADE AROUND HERE... STARTING WITH MY SIDEKICK.

UH-OH.

MEET MY NEW ASSISTANTS...

NIP AND TUCK! A.K.A. THE JOKETTES!

I LIKE 'EM!

YA GOTTA BE JOSHING ME! THEY'RE NOT EVEN FUNNY... THEY JUST BOUNCE.

DON'T WORRY, CUPCAKE, I HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL IN MIND FOR YOU!

AH, MR. J...

YOU GET TO OPEN MY MAIL!

MAIL

COME ALONG, JESSICA, WE'VE GOT PROGRAMMING TO PLAN!

ACCES GOTHA

MAIL

STICK BY A MAN DURING THE LEAN TIMES AND THIS IS WHAT YA GET? REPLACED BY THE BARBIE TWINS?

WHY, IF HE WASN'T WEARING THAT STUPID MASK I'D *KILL* HIM!

CRASH

THE MASK...

WAH! WHO AM I KIDDIN'? THIS IS ALL MY FAULT! =*blubber*= IF ONLY I HADN'T CONVINCED HIM TO PUT ON THAT THING!

IF ONLY HE'D SAID NO! =*sob*=

THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO CAN HELP ME SAVE MY PUDDIN'...

HEYA, RED, IT'S HARLEY. SAY, I NEED A SUPER BIG FAVOR...

Uh-huh.

Uh-huh.

SURE, HARLEY. I'LL SCRATCH YOUR BACK... IF YOU'LL SCRATCH MINE.

RF
BACHS
'99

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WELCOME BACK TO THE ONLY TV SHOW BANNED IN FIVE STATES-- ACCESS JOKER!"

ACCESS JOKER

IT IS OUR GREAT PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE GREEN FACE OF COMEDY...

THE BIGHEAD CLOWN WHO TURNS YOUR FROWNS UPSIDE-DOWN...

...THE JOKER!

FOLKS, HAVING THE TOP-RATED TELEVISION SHOW ON EARTH HAS MADE ME REALIZE JUST HOW IMPORTANT I AM TO YOU.

YOU NEED ME TO BRING SMILES TO YOUR PATHETIC LI'L UNEVENTFUL LIVES. SO I'VE CREATED A BRAND NEW SEGMENT JUST PACKED FULLA GIGGLES!

WHO WANTS TO BE A

SMILIN'AIRE?

WHO WANTS TO BE A

FIRST CONTESTANT ON *WHO WANTS TO BE A SMILIN-AIRE*-- BOB EISENSTEIN!

BOB WORKS FOR THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE! THREE YEARS AGO HE TRIED TO PUT THE CROWN PRINCE OF CRIME AWAY FOR TAX EVASION!

BEAN COUNTING, BOB! BEANS TREATING YA RIGHT? Hee hee!

SAY, BOB, I'M REALLY RAKING IN THE DOUGH ON THIS TV THING, AND TAXTIME IS COMING... GOT ANY ADVICE FOR DEDUCTIONS?

YOU'RE CRAZY!

I CAN CLAIM THAT? GOD LOVE THE DEMOCRATS! HAHAHA!

SERIOUSLY! LET'S GET STARTED ON WHO WANTS TO BE A SMILIN'AIRE? FIRST QUESTION, BOB...

...LAST SEPTEMBER, A BOMB I PLANTED IN THE GOTHAM SUBWAY SYSTEM WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HOW MANY DEATHS?

A: 9 B: 17

C: A CHICKEN D: 28

I-I DON'T KNOW THAT! HOW COULD I KNOW THAT? I WON'T PLAY THIS GAME!

IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER, BOB?

NO! SORRY. I-I WANNA USE A LIFELINE. GIMME THE 50-50.

I GOT YOUR 50-50! THREE CHAMBERS ARE EMPTY, THREE CHAMBERS ARE FULL! HAHAHA!

LADY LUCK IS WITH YOU TONIGHT, BOB! AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN SMILIN'!

CLIK

'CAUSE YOU'RE NOT FUNNY!

YOU THINK A LAME GAME-SHOW PARODY WHERE YOU THREATEN AN INNOCENT PERSON IS GONNA MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH?

WELL, IT MAKES ME LAUGH, BOB, YA SPOIL-SPORT! NOW DO I HAVE TO SHOOT YOU OR HAVE YOU GOT A FINAL ANSWER?

Uh, M-MY FINAL ANSWER IS... A: NINE. YOU KILLED NINE PEOPLE.

OOH, SORRY, BOB... YOU ARE WRONG! THE CORRECT ANSWER WAS C: A CHICKEN!

OLD BATMAN GOT THE BOMB OUTTA THE SUBWAY IN TIME TO SAVE THE PEOPLE, BUT NOT THE CHICKEN!

YOU DON'T GET TO BE A SMILIN'AIRE, TAXMAN BOB, BUT YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING... THAT WAS YOUR FINAL ANSWER!

HA HA HA!

SO MUCH FOR MY REFUND CHECK!
HAHAHA
IIII

WE WERE LUCKY WITH THE TAX GUY, COMMISH. WE CAN'T LET THAT MANIAC KEEP THIS UP.

AND DO WHAT ELSE, BULLOCK? SEND ANOTHER SWAT TEAM IN THERE?

AT LEAST HE'S CONTAINED IN ONE LOCATION. IT COULD BE WORSE.

JOKER

HEY, IF IT AIN'T THE CHANNEL SIX "EYE IN THE SKY" TRYING TO CAPITALIZE ON MY RATINGS.

BABOOM!

MOM ALWAYS SAID I'D PUT AN EYE OUT WITH ONE OF THESE THINGS! HOO HOO HOOO! OH, CHANNEL SIX, HOW YOU BURN ME UP! HA HAHAAAAA!

HAHAHA HAAAA!

I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, HARLEY, YOU REALLY PICKED *THE PSYCHO* TO FALL FOR. HE IS SICK.

IT'S WORSE THAN THAT, RED... HE'S JUST NOT FUNNY ANYMORE.

AND LOOK AT THOSE TRAMPY JOKETTES. THEY'RE SO WRONG. IT'S ALL SO WRONG.

HAHAHA

MY MR. J IS GONE...sob ALL BECAUSE OF THAT AWFUL GREEN MASK. *Sniffle*

WELL, HARLEY, I MIGHT JUST HAVE SOMETHING HERE THAT'LL SOLVE ALL YOUR PROBLEMS.

JUST SO LONG AS YOU CAN GET THAT THING OFF MY PUDDIN'S FACE. THAT'S THE DEAL, RIGHT?

OF COURSE. BUT YOU PROMISED WHEN THE JOKER IS BACK TO HIMSELF, HE'S GONNA NEED SOME TIME ALONE.

AND YOU'RE GONNA STAY WITH ME... WHERE IT'S SAFE, RIGHT?

I GUESS SO.

YOU TRUST ME, HARLEY. I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU... AND YOUR BOYFRIEND.

I'VE BROUGHT CHICKEN SOUP. IT DOES WONDERS FOR MULTIPLE CONTUSIONS.

PROGRESS?

SOME. THE MASK THE JOKER IS WEARING APPARENTLY BESTOWS ITS POWER IN A SUPERNATURAL MANNER.

FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER, IT FEEDS OFF THE SUBCONSCIOUS OF THE PERSON WEARING IT, MANIFESTING THEIR DEEPEST INHIBITED DESIRES.

THE PROBLEM WITH THE JOKER IS, HE WEARS HIS DEEPEST DESIRES ON HIS SLEEVE. THE MASK JUST MAKES HIM UNSTOPPABLE.

Gotham Gazette

BIGHEAD GOES MISSING AGAIN

FGOD OGOA OO OOA OF GOG,G OGH GOGHOTH ;FOAHFNVOITKA AOH;OFGOKGO A;FOIHGA;OG F OO AOHOOH O OOF GO;GOOG TOHGTQFUFUI OTHAOH0 HG O

STILL, THE BIGHEAD PHENOMENON HAS A PATTERN OF APPEARING FOR SHORT DURATIONS, THEN DISAPPEARING WITHOUT A TRACE.

A TIME LIMIT FOR HOW LONG THIS MASK CAN BE WORN BY AN INDIVIDUAL?

MORE LIKE THE PERSON WEARING IT SUCCUMBS TO ITS ILL EFFECTS ON THEIR PSYCHE AND GOES INSANE.

THE JOKER IS ALREADY INSANE, AND IF HE COULD POSSIBLY GET ANY WORSE ...

URRGHH.

I'LL HAVE TO GET BETTER FAST.

WHATTAYA MEAN, MY RATINGS ARE DOWN? HOW COULD THEY BE DOWN?

I GOT NIP AND TUCK FOR THE 15-35 MALES! WOMEN OF ALL AGES WANT TO WATCH ME!

AND "SMILIN' AIRE" WAS A SATIRICAL STROKE OF GENIUS! I THREW AN IRS GUY OUT THE WINDOW FOR PETE'S SAKE! IF THAT'S NOT ENTERTAINMENT, WHAT IS?

I-I'M SORRY, MR. JOKER, SIR.

THE NUMBERS DID SPIKE WHEN YOU BOMBED THE COPS AND SHOT DOWN THE CHANNEL SIX CHOPPER.

BORING GOTHAMITES. ALL THEY WANT TO SEE ARE EXPLOSIONS. A KABLAMMIE THIS. A KAPLOOIE THAT. POOH.

OH, MR. J!

HARLEY, OLD GIRL! I THOUGHT YOU'D RUN OFF AND JOINED THE CIRCUS ON ME.

DIDJA REALLY MISS ME, PUDDIN'?

CUPCAKE, IT WASN'T ONLY ME WHO MISSED YA...

JUST LOOK AT ALL THAT UNOPENED FAN MAIL THAT'S BEEN PILING UP, WAITING JUST FOR YOU!

AHEM.

WELL, IF IT AIN'T GREENPIECE!

NOT GONNA SAY ANYTHING? WHAT'S THE MATTER, PLANT GOT YOUR TONGUE? HAHAHAHAA!

ME AND RED CAME TO HELP WITH YOUR SHOW, MR. J. WE GOT THE SWELLEST IDEA FOR A GARDENIN' BIT.

GARDENIN' AIN'T FUNNY.

YOU NEVER LET ME DO ANYTHING.

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. MAYBE THE NOVELTY OF IT ALL WILL BRING IN SOME VIEWERS.

NIP AND TUCK? WHAT HAPPENED?

LOOKS LIKE THEY DIDN'T CHEW BEFORE THEY SWALLOWED.

WAS THAT A JOKE? OH, IVY, NEVER CHANGE! HAHAHAA!

COME ALONG, JESSICA, I GOTTA PLAN SOMETHING TO BRING DOWN THE HOUSE AFTER THESE TWO PUT MY VIEWERS TO SLEEP!

ACCESS JOKER

AND NOW AN ACCESS JOKER EXCLUSIVE, IT'S GARDENING WITH POISON IVY!

TODAY I'M NURTURING AN EXOTIC HYBRID WITH A QUICK-GROWTH SERUM. MANY PLANTS, HOWEVER, NEVER GET SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP...

...DUE TO THE DESTRUCTIVE SLASH-AND-BURN METHODS OF OIL CORPORATIONS AND LOGGING COMPANIES.

THESE RAPISTS OF OUR PLANET MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE...

OH, YES THEY SHOULD! ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY BUY LOTS AND LOTS OF ADVERTISING TIME! HAHAHA!

THANKS FOR STOPPING BY, GREENPIECE! NOW MAKE LIKE A TREE AND LEAF! HA!

MMPH!

YOU WOULD HAVE ME LEAF, WHEN I'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN TO BLOOM?

AND THANKS TO THIS HERBAL TONIC HARLEY AND I WHIPPED UP, YOU'LL BE DOING MY GARDENING, RIGHT, SLAVE?

YES... WHATEVER YOU SAY... CAN'T RESIST... OOH, HOW YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THIS...

GAHK!

NOW THAT EVERYBODY GOT WHAT'S COMIN' TO 'EM... THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!

WE'RE EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

AND I THOUGHT IT COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE.

THIS COULD BE A BREAK FOR US. PAMELA ISLEY IS INSANE, BUT NOT NEARLY AS MURDEROUS AS THE JOKER.

WE'RE EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

ANY IDEAS, KELLAWAY?

NO.

NONE I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU.

POISON IVY TAKES CONTROL OF THE CROWN PRINCE OF CRIME. YET ANOTHER TWIST IN THIS JOKER "MASK" SAGA.

IT WON'T LAST.

WE'RE EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

AND WHEN THE JOKER STRIKES BACK, I'VE GOT TO BE READY.

MORE WINE, SLAVE.

OH BOY, OH BOY... ARE YOU TWO EVER GONNA GET A SPANKING FOR THIS.

I DID IT FOR YOU, PUDDIN'... I JUST WANT THE OLD MR. J BACK. IVY'S GONNA MAKE YOU TAKE OFF THAT AWFUL MASK!

NO! I'M NEVER TAKING OFF THE MASK! NEVER! NEVER! NEVER!

YOU SEE, RED, HE'S DEFINITELY GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT THING. MAKE HIM LOSE IT ALREADY.

ALL IN GOOD TIME, HARLEY. IN THE MEANTIME, THOUGH, THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

I'M A ♪ LUMBERJACK AND I'M OKAY!

ACME LOGGING INC.

"I'VE NEVER SEEN A POEM AS LOVELY AS A TREE." -Robert Frost

TIMBERR!

AJAX OIL REFINERY

JUST CALL ME SPARKY THE ECO-TERRORIST!

THIS IS ONE SMALL STEP FOR NATURE, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MOTHER EARTH.

YIIIIII!

MASTER BRUCE?

FEELING BETTER, I TAKE IT?

NOT MUCH. BUT I'VE SEEN ALL I CAN STAND.

THIS MADNESS ENDS TONIGHT.

BULLOCK! JUST GOT WORD BATMAN IS ALIVE AND BACK IN BUSINESS.

WELL, THAT'S SWELL, COMMISH.

AND KELLAWAY'S BEEN HOLDING OUT ON US... HE KNEW ABOUT SOME ENCHANTED MASK THE JOKER IS WEARING AND DIDN'T LET ON.

THAT BUM. WHERE IS HE?

"I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE KELLAWAY IS."

ACCESS JOKER

TODAY WAS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF WHAT RESPONSIBLE MEDIA CAN DO.

YEAH? WELL, THE PAYBACK ON THIS ONE IS GONNA BE HUGE, GREENPIECE.

EVERYONE JUST RELAX!

NOW, THIS IS HOW IT'S GONNA BE. YOU'RE GONNA TELL THE JOKER TO TAKE OFF THE MASK AND THIS WHOLE THING ENDS RIGHT NOW!

I DON'T WANNA TAKE OFF THE MASK. BESIDES, THAT GUY'S A COP, IVY. HE AIN'T GONNA SHOOT YA.

A COP, HUH?

UGH!

SMAK

GIVE ME A REASON WHY WE SHOULDN'T KILL YOU.

YOU... YOU COULD WEAR THE MASK, TOO.

TELL ME MORE, HANDSOME.

HE TAKES OFF THE MASK, YOU PUT IT ON. SIMPLE.

HMM. ALL RIGHT THEN, CLOWN, OFF WITH IT... IT'S MY TURN.

AS YOU WISH...

THERE'S JUST THAT ONE LITTLE DETAIL... NOW THAT I'M NOT WEARING THE MASK...

YEAH?

SLAP!

YOU DON'T CONTROL ME ANYMORE! HAHAHAAA!

BE RIGHT WITH YA!

Uhhh...

WHEEE!

OH, CRAP. TIME TO GO.

NOW WHERE WAS I?

OH, YEAH! WEED WHACKIN'! HA HA HA HA HAAAAH!

RED!

HARLEY, HARLEY, HARLEY... I WARNED YOU ABOUT A SPANKING YOU WERE GONNA GET!

SHNK

MR. J! PUDDIN'! CAN'T YOU SEE? THIS AIN'T YOU! YOU'D NEVER DO THIS!

WRONG!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAN WHO DIDN'T NEED A MASK WITH FANCY SUPER-POWERS? OR A HIT TV SHOW?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAN WHO TOOK JOY FROM JUST A LITTLE BIT OF SICK AND TWISTED COMEDY?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAN WHO WAS FUNNY?

WAS FUNNY?

WAS FUNNY?

I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING EARLIER... BUT YOU REMIND ME OF THOSE SAD CLOWN MASKS NOW. YOU KNOW, THE ONES THAT TRY WAAAY TOO HARD TO BE FUNNY?

SHE'S RIGHT, YA KNOW. YOU LOST A LITTLE SOMETHING IN THAT PIECE OF WOOD YOU'RE WEARING.

SHUT UP, YOU!

I'M THE SAME AS I EVER WAS! THIS MASK ONLY MADE ME FUNNIER! AND I'LL PROVE IT, TOO!

TONIGHT I'LL DO SOMETHING THE OLD MR. J ONLY JOKED ABOUT. TONIGHT YOU GIRLS AND GOTHAM CITY WILL GET A TELEVISION SHOW THAT'LL BLAST YOU RIGHT OUT OF YOUR PANTS!

HAHAHA

THE REPORTS I'M GETTING ARE THAT THE JOKER IS GOING ALL THE WAY THIS TIME.

IT'S TRUE.

WELL IF IT AIN'T MR. SECRETIVE.

YOU'RE NOT WELCOME HERE.

LOOK, I'VE BEEN TRACKING THAT MASK FOR YEARS. I'VE SEEN WHAT IT'S DONE TO MEN, GOOD AND BAD. EVERYONE WHO PUTS IT ON BECOMES A MONSTER.

INTRIGUE

I KEPT IT SECRET TO PROTECT YOU... BUT HERE'S EVERYTHING.

I'VE GOT ALL THIS. I JUST NEED TO KNOW HOW TO GET THE MASK OFF HIM.

I WANT TO BE PART OF THE CAPTURE. I WANT A GUARANTEE THAT MASK WILL BE TAKEN OFF THE STREETS FOR GOOD!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

ALL RIGHT. ONLY HE CAN TAKE THE MASK OFF HIMSELF.

GORDON, PREPARE TO EVACUATE THE CITY.

HAHA HAA!

RF BACHS 2000

RF
BACHS
'99

I'M FUNNIER THAN EVER!

BLU

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS, WELCOME TO THE FINAL EPISODE OF ACCESS JOKER!

ACCESS JOKE

FOLKS, YOU'VE BEEN CRAVING EXPLOSIVE ENTERTAINMENT SINCE MY TELEVISION SHOW PREMIERED AND TONIGHT I SHAN'T DISAPPOINT YOU.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE TO YOU OUR SPECIAL GUEST, AND A VERY GOOD FRIEND...

THIS IS BOB! HE WORKS FOR THE AIR FORCE AS A THERMONUCLEAR WARHEAD IN THE 50 MEGATON RANGE. AND HE'S GONNA HELP US GO OUT WITH A BANG! HAHAHAAA!

SO STICK AROUND, 'CAUSE LATER ON I'LL BE PUSHING THE BIG RED BUTTON AND BOB'S LI'L FIREWORKS SHOW WILL HAVE YOU GLUED TO YOUR SEAT... AND YOUR WALL... AND YOUR CEILING! HAHAHA HAAA!

YOU'RE PROBABLY ASKING YOURSELVES, "WHY DOESN'T MR. J JUST GO AHEAD AND GET IT OVER WITH?" WELL, I'LL TELL YA... I'M WAITING FOR PRIMETIME!!

JEEZ, I THINK HE'S REALLY GONNA DO IT THIS TIME. COMMISH, YOU WANT THE SNIPERS SHOULD TAKE THEIR SHOT?

LET'S NOT GIVE HIM AN EXCUSE.

KELLAWAY, WHERE YOU GOING?

TO STOP HIM.

YOU SAID HE COULDN'T BE STOPPED.

MAYBE I WAS WRONG.

SO SIT BACK AND RELAX, GOTHAMITES, 'CAUSE YOU'RE WATCHING ONE SEASON FINALE THAT'LL LIVE UP TO THE HYPE! HA HAA!

DON'T DO IT, PUDDIN'!

SJOO.SMR.J! BLOWING UP THE CITY LIKE THAT JUST AIN'T YOUR STYLE.

since when?

CAN'T YOU SEE, RED, HE'S NOT HIMSELF. THAT MASK HAS DISCOMBOBULATED HIM. I WISH HE'D GO BACK TO BEING THE OLD MR. J...

LISTEN UP, TOOTS! I DON'T NEED THE OLD MR. J! THE OLD MR. J IS DEAD!

AND THE NEW MR. J IS GOING PLACES! WHO NEEDS TO BE THE PLAIN OLD JOKER WHEN I CAN BE...

THE OLD MR. J?

JOKER II!

TWO TIMES THE JOKES! TWO TIMES THE LAUGHS!

BUT, PUDDIN', YOU HATE SEQUELS! AND THEN THERE'S THAT WHOLE TWO-FACE THING.

MAYBE SOMETHING A LITTLE RETRO...

JOKER CLASSIC!

KNOCK KNOCK! WHO'S THERE? YOUR FAVORITE LUNATIC WITH GREEN HAIR!

EWW! SOMEBODY CALL THE CORONER, 'CAUSE THAT SHTICK IS DEAD.

HMM. THE RETRO THING AIN'T FUNNY AS IT USED TO BE. PERHAPS SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF...

JOKER 2000!

TOO FUNNY FOR THE NINETEEN HUNDREDS!

THAT'S JUST PLAIN LAME, MR.J!

MMM. AND WHAT'LL I CALL MYSELF NEXT YEAR? JOKER 2001? MAYBE I'LL BE BETTER OFF AS SIMPLY...

JOKER BEYOND

OOH! SKIN TIGHT AND ALL CLINGY! NOT TOO SHABBY, PUDDIN'.

SURE IT'S A LITTLE "SATURDAY MORNING"... BUT WHAT THE...

HEY!

JOKER

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! IT'S THE BATMAN! HE'S ALIVE! HE'S ALIVE!

=SNIF= THIS IS WHY I LOVE LIVE TELEVISION! YOU JUST CAN'T PREDICT WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN NEXT!

I SURE DIDN'T SEE THIS ONE COMIN'! HA HAHAHAAA!

SPLAT

Didn't see that one, either.

BATMAN! MY HERO! DIVING OUT OF THE NIGHT TO SAVE ME!

YEEAARGH!

FWUP

oogie...

LOIS, THIS IS A JOB FOR...

THWOP

SUPER JOKER!

LOOK! UP IN THE SKY! IT'S A DODO! IT'S A LAWN DART! NO, IT'S JUST LI'L OLD ME!

HEEHEE!

RF BACHS 2000 Hum

FASTER THAN A KNOCK-KNOCK JOKE!

ABLE TO LEAP A BAD PUN IN A SINGLE BOUND!

MORE POWERFUL THAN A WHOOPIE CUSHION!

YES, SUPERJOKER! COMIC GENIUS FROM THE LOONEY BIN! HAHAHAAAA!

SKRUNK

LEAVING SO SOON? I BARELY WINGED YA! HA HA HAAAA!

KAFOOSH

CLICK

KABAWAWWW!!

PUDDIN'!

YOU KILLED 'IM! YOU KILLED MY PUDDIN', YA BIG BULLY!

NOT LIKELY, GIVEN HIS POWERS.

I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WAS A MURDERER, YA STINKY BAT!

HUH?!

BAM

HAHA

VMMMM

CHECK OUT THIS SIGHT GAG! HAHAHA!

HAHAHAH

YOU'VE HAD THAT MASK LONG ENOUGH, PSYCHO. NOW TAKE IT OFF, OR...

OR WHAT, PRAY TELL? YOU'LL SHOOT?! YOU COPS AND YOUR GUNS! YOU JUST DON'T GET IT! YOU JUST CAN'T...

"...SEE THE LIGHT! HAHA HAAAA!

HAHA HAHA

HAHAHAHAHA

UMMM

UUGHH!

NOW IF WE'RE ALL DONE WITH THE PRELIMINARIES ...

...LET'S GO TO THE MAIN EVENT!

OOH! THE CHAMP MISSES WITH THE RIGHT HAND!

WHOOSH

NO FAIR! FOUL! FOUL!

OW! MY EYE!

WHAM THUD SMACK

OOOH!

WADOMP

The champ... is down...

WHUD!

BUT NOT OUT!

AND DOWN GOES THE CHALLENGER! HA HA!

I GOTTA HAND IT TO YA, BATTY OL BOY. YOU REALLY BRING OUT THE BEST IN ME. YA GAVE IT THE OL' COLLEGE TRY, BUT THE JOKER WINS THIS TIME.

YOU'RE NOT THE JOKER.

WHATTYA MEAN I'M NOT THE JOKER? DON'T YOU WATCH TV?!

FWAP

I DON'T KNOW WHO...OR WHAT YOU ARE...BUT YOU ARE NOT THE JOKER.

BOOBY, IT'S ME! LOOK! SEE? SEE? SEE?

I KNOW THE JOKER. THE BOMB THING IS HARDLY WORTHY OF HIM. HE'D GO FOR SUBSTANCE, NOT SPECTACLE.

BUT-BUT-BUT PEOPLE LIKE EXPLOSIONS.

THE JOKER NEVER PANDERS. AND AS SICK AS HE IS, HE'S AN ORIGINAL. YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY JUST ANOTHER PRETENDER.

NO...NO... I'M THE REAL THING.

SOMETIMES, THE JOKER WAS EVEN FUNNY. YOU...NOT EVEN CLOSE.

I'M FUNNIER THAN EVER!

BAM

YOU'RE FUNNY LIKE KILLER CROC IS A MENSA GRADUATE!

WHO SAID THAT?

WHO SAID THAT?

I SAID IT, YOU TWO-BIT HACK!

YOU!

SHRIP

YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS? YOU GOT SO BUSY TELLIN' US ALL HOW FUNNY YOU ARE... YOU FORGOT THE JOKES.

YOU WERE NEVER SO FUNNY! MY PUBLIC LOVES ME! THEY LAUGH!

MORON, THEY'RE LAUGHING AT YOU.

THIS AIN'T GOOD.

SHUT UP I TELL YA! I KNOW WHAT'S FUNNY AND I'M IT!

SO DO I AND YOU'RE NOT IT!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF GREEN HALLOWEEN WRECKING MY REPUTATION!

THE MASK STAYS, LOSER!

SEE THERE! THE REAL JOKER'S BEEN LURKING UNDER THE SURFACE, JUST WAITIN' FOR YOU TO LOUSE THINGS UP.

IT CAN'T BE...

SUCKER!

Poit

NOOO!

LOOKY! I'VE LOST MY HEAD! HAHAHAAA!

YAY, PUDDIN'! YOU KICKED THE HABIT!

YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH WHEN YOU'RE NOT HUGGING A GUY'S FACE! HAHAHAA!

AIN'T THAT RIGHT, BATTY?

Batty?

POW!

HEH HEH HEH HEEEEE. YOU SNEAKY LITTLE RAT! YOU LIED TO GET ME OUTTA THE MASK!

I DID LIE... WHEN I SAID YOU WERE FUNNY.

YOU'RE NEVER FUNNY.

GRRR!

ARGH!

SPANG

HE GOES FOR THAT MASK AGAIN, BLOW HIS HAND OFF.

COPS... FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO STOP ME WITH THEIR GUNS. NOW THAT'S SOME IRONY. FLYING IRONY THAT IS, HAHA HAAAAAA!

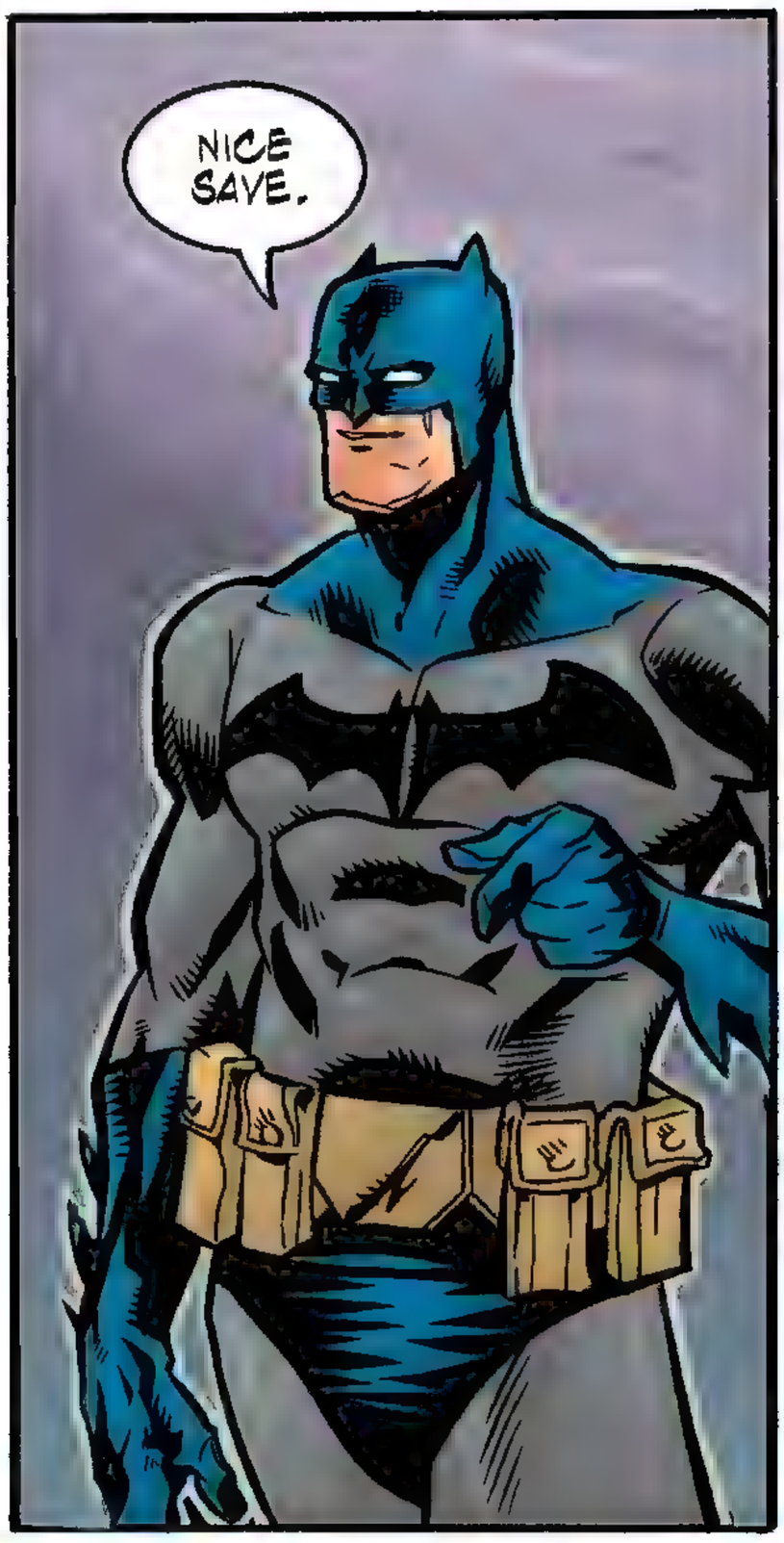
WELL, I SAID I WAS GONNA GO OUT WITH A BANG! SO LONG, BATTY.

NO!

IF WE GOTTA GO, AT LEAST WE'RE GOIN' TOGETHER! SO LONG, MR. J!

ADIOS, PUMPKIN PIE! HAHAHA!

HEY! WHY NO GO BOOM?!


NICE SAVE.

THANKS.

AW, PHOOEY.

YOU'LL GET 'EM NEXT TIME, PUDDIN'!
WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE UNTIE ME NOW?

THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW.

MMMPH.

SO YOU HAD A BAD DAY.

NO PARKING

PAGERS

G.C.P.D.

S.W.A.T.

6.

A BAD DAY?

OOOH! WAIT A SECOND. IT WAS JUST A BAD DAY, WASN'T IT?

STILL, WE HAD SOME LAUGHS, KILLED SOME FOLKS, BLEW UP STUFF, AND THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT IN THE END. BUT SO WHAT?

EVERYBODY HAS BAD DAYS. AIN'T THAT RIGHT, COPPER?

THAT'S WHAT THEY TELL ME.

HOOOO!

I HOPE KELLAWAY KNOWS WHAT TO DO WITH THAT THING.

HE KNOWS BETTER THAN ANYONE.

EDGE CITY. MAIN STREET CEMETERY.

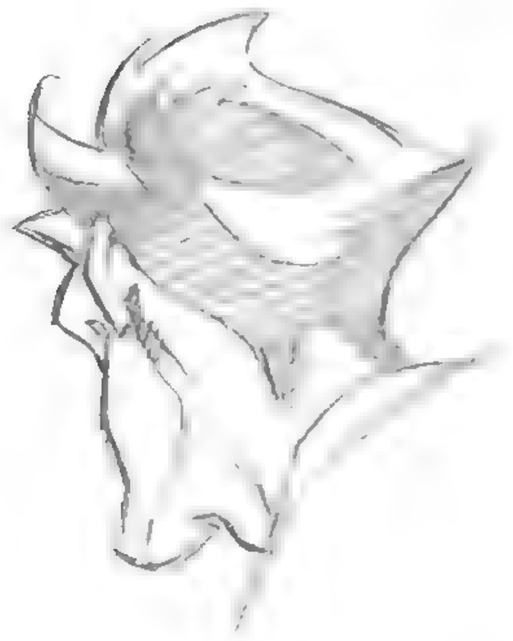
STANLEY IPKISS
A FRIEND WHO DIED TOO YOUNG

REST IN PEACE, STANLEY.

REST IN PEACE, BIGHEAD.

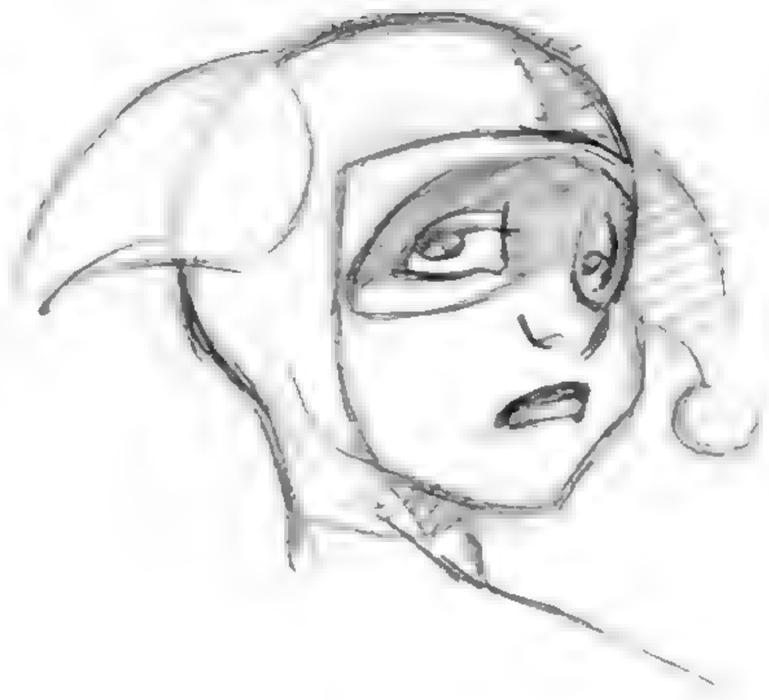
THE END

MASK



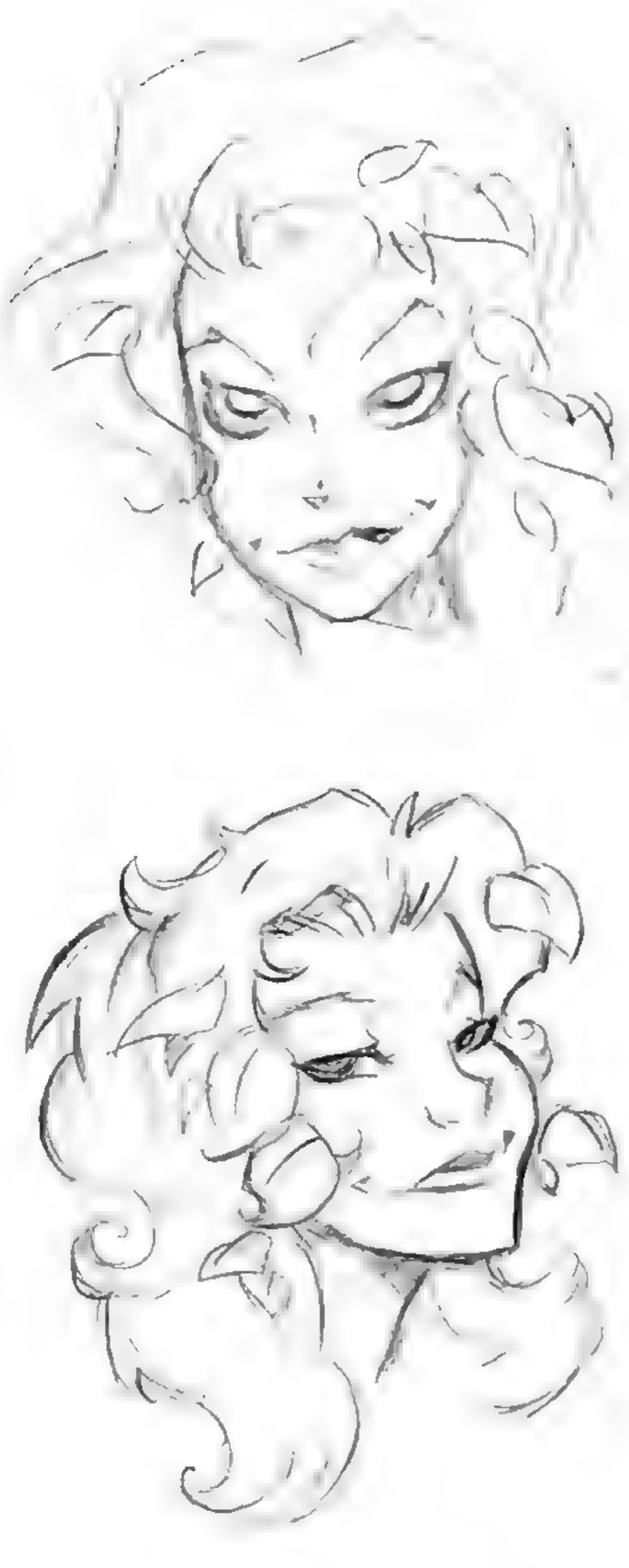
JOKER/MASK

THE JOKER



HARLEY QUINN

POISON IVY



H. BULLOCK

KELLAWAY

GRIFTER AND THE MASK: CLEAVING LAS VEGAS #1–#2

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ALL I NEED'S A LITTLE MORE *LUCK*.

I'M ON THE BEST STRING I'VE EVER RUN ON A TABLE IN *VEGAS*...

...AN' *THIS* ROLL'S MAKE OR BREAK.

NO *SEVEN*! NO *SEVEN*! COME ON!

GIVE ME A *BREAK*! DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY PEOPLE *DIED* OF HANDGUN WOUNDS IN THIS COUNTRY SINCE WE *STARTED* THIS CONVERSATION?

I'LL *TELL* YOU HOW MANY! *SEVEN*!

SEVEN!

YOU GOTTA BE *KIDDIN'* ME!

BREAK IT IS...

...AN' I'M ABOUT TA MAKE A *FAST* ONE OF MY *OWN* WHEN--

PIPE DOWN AND GET OUT OF MY *WAY*, LIBERAL, OR YOU'RE IN FOR SOME SERIOUS--

WHUMP

UFF!

--TROUBLE FINDS ME.

SIR! SIR, YOU STILL HAVE A LINE OF CREDIT TO COVER?

JUST SEND A BILL TO HALO ENTERPRISES. THEY'LL COVER ME.

BOYS?

YOU PLAY INNA PRIVATE ROOM AT THE OASIS, YOU PAY UP YOUR MARKER BEFORE YOU LEAVE.

YOU GOT DA MONEY OR WHAT?

THE "OR WHAT" I GOT.

WHAT'S THE EXCHANGE RATE ON "OR WHAT" RUNNIN' THESE DAYS?

LET'S GO, BUDDY, YOU NEED SOME FRESH AIR.

HEY, COME ON. I'M GOOD FOR IT.

EMERGENCY ROOM EXIT ONLY

GET A GOOD LOOK AROUND, 'CUZ YOU AIN'T SETTIN' FOOT IN HERE AGAIN FOR A LOOONG TIME.

HUNH--?

GET BACK HERE, PAL.

YA GOT TO LEAVE THE PAYIN' CUSTOMERS ALONE.

I HAVE A RIGHT TO PROTEST THIS REPUGNANT WEAPONS SHOW.

THAT YOU DO, BUT YOU KNOW THE LAW; GOT TO STAY BEHIND THE LINES.

I FOUGHT FOR YOU IN THE WAR, TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH--

--MINE AND YOURS!

AN' AIN'T NOBODY STOPPING YOU NEITHER, IF YOU FOLLOW THE RULES.

RAMSES

S.H.O.T.S.

PAUL? THE AIRPORT JUST CALLED THE HOTEL. THEY FINALLY FOUND YOUR LUGGAGE.

WANT ME TO COVER FOR YOU?

YEAH, THANKS, NANCY. I DEFINITELY NEED TO GET AWAY FROM THIS MONEY-SUCKING MONSTROSITY FOR A WHILE.

WOW, REALLY? THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY.
WELL, YOU KNOW... PRICE A' GAS THESE DAYS..
TAKE YOUR BAGS, SIR?
JUST GIMME A TIP, PIG.
TAXI
...THE WORD OF GOD FOR A DONATION OF ONLY...
...KIDS ON DRUGS NEED CASH FROM YOU...
...HI, I'M DEAF AND MUTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE...
EXPRESS MISSING BAGGAGE CLAIM
Take a number ...or a nap.
...KNEW I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT WAR AND PEACE TO FINISH WHILE I WAITED...
HEY! THIS THE LINE?
YEAH, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? AND THEY CALL THIS EXPRESS SERVICE.
HAW-HAW! YEAH! EXPRESS! HEE-HAW! FIRST TIME IN VEGAS?
YEAH. YOU?
HELL, NO, I LIVE HERE. GOT ME A JOB CUTTIN' STEAKS AT THE PONDEROSA.
WHAT YOU IN TOWN FOR?
YOU HEAR ABOUT THE NEW WEAPONS SHOW OVER AT THE RAMSES HOTEL?
HELL, YEAH. YOU HERE FOR THAT? YOU ALL RIGHT--
I'M HERE TO PROTEST IT.
I DON'T THINK PEOPLE NEED MORE DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN THEIR HOMES THAN THEY'VE ALREADY GOT.
...DAMN COMMIE..
NEXT!

CAN I HELP YOU?

YEAH. YOU CALLED ABOUT MY BAG?

I DIDN'T CALL! THIS STUFF'S MINE! I BOUGHT IT ALL. I GOT RECEIPTS!

WHAT'D YOUR BAG LOOK LIKE?

WHY DO YOU NEED A DESCRIPTION IF I HAVE THE CLAIM CHECK?

OH, WE DON'T PUT 'EM IN ORDER. THAT'D TAKE TOO LONG.

WELL, IT'S BLACK AND IT'S GOT A--

WHATEVER.

COMMIE.

LOOK, I'M NOT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, I--

I MIGHT JUST HAVE TA KICK YOUR--

ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE.

VOILÀ!

THUDD

THANKS.

HAVE A NICE DAY!!!

COMMIE! COMMIE! HOW 'BOUT THAT, HUH?

HOW 'BOUT I KICK YER--

...KICK YOUR BUTT FIRST, THEN WE'RE GONNA *KILL* YA...

...THEN WE'RE GONNA *MURDER* YA, THEN WE'RE GONNA *HURT* YA...

...THEN, YOU EVER SEE THAT MOVIE *PRIME CUT*? WE'RE GONNA--

NOTHING I LIKE BETTER THAN HAVIN' TO LET MYSELF GET *TRASHED*...

--BY TWEEDLEDUMB AND TWEEDLE*DU'MBER*.

BUT I COULDN'T MAKE A *SCENE* INSIDE.

UNGFFFK!

'COURSE, I'M *NOT* INSIDE ANYMORE.

ALL RIGHT, STEROID LOVERS...

...TIME WE CHANGED THE RULES A BIT.

RULES, COLE CASH?

I MAKE THE RULES IN THIS ESTABLISHMENT.

YOU *PLAY*, YOU *PAY*.

DINERO? WHY'D I EVER THINK I COULD GET IN AND OUT OF VEGAS WITHOUT RUNNIN' INTO *YOUR* UGLY MUG?

YES, WHY *DID* YOU?

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU COME INTO *MY* PRIVATE ROOM, RUN UP A *CREDIT* MARKER...

...AND THEN TRY TO *LEAVE* WITHOUT *PAYING* IT OFF.

BUT... I THINK WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT. FOLLOW ME.

DON'T MIND IF I DO. 'SCUSE ME, "AH-NOLD."

THEY SAID I WOULDN'T BE SETTIN' FOOT IN *HERE* FOR A *LONG* TIME TO COME.

PRIVATE

KEEP OUT!

THIS MEANS YOU!

I GUESS I HAD A DIFFERENT VISION OF "LONG TIME."

PLEASE, COME IN.

NICE DIGS, DINERO. THEY LOCK YOU *IN* AT NIGHT?

THIS IS THE NERVE CENTER FOR MY ENTIRE OPERATION!

FROM HERE I CAN SEE *EVERY* CARD, *EVERY* CHIP, *EVERY* DOLLAR IN THE CASINO!

FROM HERE I CAN WATCH--

RICKI LAKE?

SO WHAT IF IT *IS*? IT'S A *DIVERSION* --A *PALATE* CLEANSER--A--

LOOK, YOU OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T DRAG ME BACK IN HERE TO DEFEND YOUR LATENT *TENDENCIES*, SO WHAT'S THE *SHAKES*, SHORT MAN?

I HAVE A *JOB* OFFER FOR YOU. ONE YOU'LL *ACCEPT*, OR I'LL HAVE YOU KILLED.

I'M LISTENING.

THERE'S A CONVENTION IN TOWN SHOWING OFF A NEW FIREARM CALLED THE "*PROBABILITY ANNIHILATOR*." I *WANT* IT.

GET IT, AND I'LL CLEAR YOUR DEBT AND ADVANCE YOU ANOTHER THOUSAND.

WHERE WOULD I FIND THIS THING?

AT A LITTLE PLACE CALLED THE--

...RAMSES HOTEL. HERE YA GO, SIR. FRONT-DOOR SERVICE.

WHERE ELSE WOULD YOU DROP SOMEBODY OFF, EXACTLY?

TAXI

NOWHERE. BUT THIS BANTER HELPS EASE THE COGNITIVE DISSONANCE YA MIGHT FEEL ABOUT GIVIN' ME THE SIZE TIP I'M EXPECTIN'.

EXCUSE ME, I WAS HOPING I COULD GET MY ROOM CHANGED?

IS THERE A PROBLEM?

WELL, IT'S JUST A LITTLE LOUD. I'M RIGHT BY THE MAIN CASINO--

MR. NEWMAN, THE RAMSES IS NOT A CASINO...

WHOOSH

KICK A LITTLE HIGHER, BABY!

MORE BOOZE!

"...IT'S A WHOLESOME, FAMILY-RESORT EXPERIENCE."

...FAMILY RESORT MY--

♪

BING

YOU FROM A MILITIA?

NAW, I'M FROM JERSEY.

...DAMN ANKH...

...CAN'T THEY JUST USE KEYS?...

TOMBS 278-296

TOMBS 260-277

SUITCASE, YOU ARE THE *ONE* GOOD THING TO HAPPEN TO ME SINCE I GOT--

...THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING THE RAMSES HOTEL. IF YOU'D LIKE THIS TELEVISION SET TURNED OFF DURING YOUR STAY, PLEASE CONTACT HOUSEKEEPING.

COMPLIMENTARY PORE-CLEANSING WRAPS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GIZA ROOM.

...WAITAMINUTE... *THIS* ISN'T *MINE*...

NEITHER IS *THIS*.

OR THIS.

OR THIS.

OR THIS.

OR THIS.

...MAYBE...

OR THIS.

OR THIS.

MASK

OR...SAAAAY... WHAT IN THE WORLD IS *THIS*?

MASK

...IT'S MY MASK, THAT'S WHAT.

I KNOW WHAT IT IS, SIR, BUT...

HOME WEAPONS EXPO

REGISTRATION

NO MASKS

...OUR RULES STATE NO FACES ARE TO BE OBSTRUCTED.

CALIBER COSTUME CONTEST

BANG! MY NAME IS TOM

WE DON'T EVEN LET THE GRAND MASQUERADE PARTICIPANTS WEAR THEM.

HAVE YOU LOOKED AT ME? I GOT GUNS, I GOT BULLETS...

...AN' YOU'RE OBJECTIN' TO MY MASK? MY MASK?

I DON'T MAKE THE RULES, I JUST--

FOUR ADULTS.

HANDI-CAPPED ADULTS.

LOOK AT THOSE GUYS! THEY'RE WALKING ARSENALS, AND YOU'RE STOPPING ME?

BRUDDERS, DIS IS DA DAY.

FRIDAY?

NAW! DIS IS DA DAY DA ONE-ARMED BANDITS SET DIS WORLD STRAIGHT.

BAND

BAN

NEO INDUSTRIES

ALLS WE GOTTA DO IS PICK DA METHOD.

DIS ONE HERE FEELS NICE..

JUNK.

JUNK. ALL THIS *NEO INDUSTRIES* STUFF IS CRAP KNOCKOFFS AND NOTHIN' BUT. VAD HYPER-CANNON INCLUDED.

DON'T GET ME *WRONG*...

...I'M NOT LOOKIN' FOR NEW *POKER* BUDDIES.

BUT *THESE* CREEPIES LOOK LIKE NINE SIDES OF TROUBLE WORTH QUESTIONIN' A BIT...

...EVEN IF THEY AIN'T MY *REAL* JOB HERE.

CONSIDERIN' THE *REAL* HYPER-CANNON ALMOST BLEW MY *ARM* OFF, I'D HATE TA THINK WHAT *THAT* MIGHT DO.

YOU SAYIN' YOU *FIRED* ONE A DOZE?

THE REAL DEAL. *BAD* NEWS. GOOD THING THEY'RE STILL BANNED UNDER INTERNATIONAL TREATY.

IT *AIN'T* SUCH A GOOD THING.

DIS MIGHT BE *USE-FUL* IN *SOME* SITIATIONS.

AN' JUST WHAT SORTA "SITIATIONS" YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, NORTHPAW?

CLEANSING DA EARTH OF DA HUMAN BACTERIA THAT KEEP IT FROM ITS NATURAL, FULLY ARMED STATE!

UH...'SCUZE ME FOR A SECOND.

RIGHT MAKES MIGHT!

I'M NOT ONE TO MAKE SNAP JUDGMENTS, BUT IN *THEIR* CASE, I MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

ZIP-L… ZIP GUNS

THEY'RE *PSYCHOS*, BUT PROB'LY TEN MILES OF TALK AND TWO INCHES OF ACTION.

BESIDES, I'VE GOT A PROBABILITY ANNIHILATOR TO FIND...

...WHATEVER *THAT* IS.

DINERO TOLD ME IT WAS SOME KIND OF *PREDICTIVE* WEAPON...

...SHOOTS AT EVERY PROBABLE POSITION A TARGET MIGHT MOVE TO--

...HUH...?

VARIANT-EDITION HANDGUN?

WE'VE GOT A *SILVER-FOIL* EDITION, A *GLOW-IN-THE-DARK* EDITION, A--

UH... NO THANKS, BUT WHILE I'VE GOT YOU HERE...

...WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT...

...THAT?

THUM THUM THUM THUM

JUST A MINUTE! JUST A--

NANCY?!

HI, PAUL. I GOT YOUR MESSAGE ABOUT YOUR BAG, SO I TOOK UP A LITTLE COLLECTION FROM THE OTHER MEMBERS.

IT'S A LITTLE ECLECTIC, BUT YOU CAN AT LEAST WEAR IT UNTIL YOU CAN GET YOUR STUFF CLEANED.

THANKS... uh... COME IN, COME IN.

...AND UP THE NILE...

I ALSO HAVE SOME REALLY BAD NEWS.

WHILE YOU WERE GONE, THE SECURITY GUYS CAME LOOKING FOR YOU. SOMEBODY SAW YOU POSTING THOSE FLYERS--"DOWN WITH GUNS."

THEY SAID IF THEY SEE YOU IN THE HALL AGAIN, THEY'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED.

I GUESS THE PROTEST IS OVER FOR YOU, HUH?

I FOUGHT IN 'NAM TO PROTECT EVERYONE ELSE'S RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS.

NO WAY AM I JUST ROLLING OVER AND IGNORING MY OWN!

WHEN I JOINED "PEOPLE AGAINST WEAPONS SELLERS"...

...I SWORE I'D MAKE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHAT A THREAT WEAPONS IN THE HOME ARE!

I WILL NOT LEAVE THIS CONVENTION UNTIL I'VE MADE MY POINT! AND--

UH, PAUL? WHAT'S THAT?

WHAT'S--

OH!

OMIGOD! I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T--

UNNERSTAND ME! CHARLEY? HUH?!

OH, THAT. ONE OF MANY WEIRD THINGS IN THE SUITCASE I GOT.

'COURSE, IF SECURITY IS REALLY AFTER ME, I MAY HAVE TO WEAR IT AS A DISGUISE.

YOU KNOW, PAUL, YOU'RE VERY CUTE WHEN YOU'RE WORKED UP.

PAUL, DON'T! I'M YOUR WIFE, NOT--!

OH, NO YOU--

NOT THAT. THAT.

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF HALLOWEEN MASK.

HUH? I WHUH--? NANCY? YOU--

DON'T!

I MEAN... I'M SORRY, I JUST...CAN'T BE WITH YOU...

...ANY-ONE. I'M SORRY, I--

I UNDERSTAND, PAUL, WE CAN KEEP IT PROFESSIONAL.

I--I JUST THOUGHT --WELL...

BE CAREFUL IF YOU COME DOWN-STAIRS.

SO, MISS DOUBLE-BARRELED SPOKESWOMAN TOLD ME THE PROBABILITY ANNIHILATOR ACTUALLY *IS* ON DISPLAY...

HOW

TOK

TOK

DC HANDGUNS

...BUT I'VE BEEN AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT *NOBODY* WOULD PUT A WEAPON *THAT* POWERFUL RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN--

CRAP.

MARVELOUS WEAPONS GROUP

--AT LEAST NOT WITHOUT A TRUCKLOAD OF UNDERCOVER GUARDS.

A CENTIPEDE COULDN'T SNEAK PAST THIS SETUP.

I NEED A BETTER PLAN.

SOMETHING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF A *MIRACLE* OF GOOD FORTUNE.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

BUT VEGAS AIN'T KNOWN FOR PAYOFFS ON LONG SHOTS--

HUH?!

SHWIK SHWIK

YOU CAN'T HAVE THREE ACES, 'CAUSE I'VE GOT TWO--

--UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU KNOW HOW TO WORK A *GRIFT*.

...CAN'T BELIEVE I *DID* THAT.

WHAT WAS I THINKING? GOT TO APOLOGIZE TO HER.

...EASE AWAY THE DAY'S FRUSTRATIONS...

THEN WHAT? GET CAUGHT BY THE SECURITY GUY AND BOOTED OUT ON MY BACKSIDE?

...MAKE A WHOLE NEW YOU...

THESE CLOTHES SHE BROUGHT ME ARE GOING TO ATTRACT NOTHING *BUT* ATTENTION.

GEEZ...HOW MUCH MORE STUPID COULD A GUY *LOOK*?

...READY TO TAKE ON THE WORLD...

...SO TAKE THAT FINAL STEP...

UNBELIEVABLE.

MIGHT AS WELL FINISH IT OFF.

AT LEAST NO ONE BUT NANCY WILL RECOGNIZE...

...MEEEAAAGH!

LOOK, CHIEF...

...YOU GOT A PACK OF *CRAZIES* IN A ROOM FULL OF FIREARMS.

THAT'S LIKE AN A.A. GROUP TAKING A TOUR OF A *BREWERY.*

SECURITY

I *TOLD* YOU, MR. "SMITH," WE ALREADY *HAVE* SECURITY HERE.

AN' I'M TELLIN' *YOU,* YOUR SECURITY IS *BUNK.*

AM I SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOUR *WORD* FOR THAT?

NOPE. I'D MUCH RATHER GIVE YA *PROOF* THAT YOU'RE IN *WAY* OVER YOUR HEAD HERE.

FOLLOW ME.

WHAT THE--?!

THREE MINUTES.

FOUR AND A HALF IF YOU COUNT THE *ARRANGING* TIME.

MMM-MY

NOW, THE WAY I SEE IT, YOU CAN EITHER *HIRE* ME, OR *WORRY* ABOUT ME.

IS THAT A *THREAT* OR AN *OFFER?*

TAKE YOUR PICK.

♪ TOURISTS AND HOOKERS, HOTELS WITH NO MORALS... ♪

♪ ...LOBBIES CARVED OUT FROM THE RAREST OF CORALS... ♪

WHAT IN THE--?

COSTUME CONTEST?

LIBERACE RESURRECTED?

♪ ...FIVE-DOLLAR BUFFETS OF COLD CHICKEN WINGS... ♪

PHARAOH'S FEAST .79¢

UGK...

♪ ...THESE ARE A FEW OF MY LAS VEGAS THINGS!!! ♪

RECEP

I HEARD THAT EVERYONE IN THIS CONVENTION IS PACKING *HEAT*--

Huh?

--AND I'M NOT TALKING BENGAY, EITHER!

YOU DON'T THINK ANYONE'D MIND IF I TOOK IN A LITTLE...

...PROTECTION?

SCHWK

...WELL WE DO HAVE *RULES* ABOUT *MASKS* AND ACTUALLY ABOUT *KNIVES*, TOO, BUT HEH-HEH, YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT I GUESS, SO LONG AS YOU DON'T *HURT* ME HEH-HEH...

HEY! CAN'T YOU *READ*?

HUH?

NO SMOKING

NOOOOOOOOO--

"SMOKIN'!!!

Uh--?!

ATTENTION, GUN-MART SHOPPERS...

...MY BLUE-LIGHT SPECIAL ON BUTT-KICKING IS STARTING NOW IN THE DEALER'S ROOM!

HOME WEAPONS EXPO

HOWDY, PATRON! READY FOR SOME--

HE'S GOT A KNIFE!!!

EEK!

AAH!

HUH?!

AWRIGHT, BRUDDER BANDITS! NOWZ OUR CHANCE...

...OPEN FIRE!!!

BRRRRT

BLAMM BLAMM

WHOOOM

UH... ABOUT THAT SECURITY JOB?

IT'S YOURS!

POK POK POK

CRACK

TIMMY!

WHA-BOOM

HI.

RRRT RRRT RRRT

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DO NOT BE ALARMED!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

DESPITE THE POTENTIAL *CATASTROPHE* THAT COULD ENSUE...

...MARVELOUS WEAPONS GROUP IS *STILL* PROUD TO PRESENT A *LIVE* DEMONSTRATION OF THE NEW PROBABILITY ANNIHILATOR HERE AT THE HOME WEAPONS EXPO!

OOOH...

MARVELOUS ...WHEN YOU CARE ENOUGH TO KILL WITH THE VERY BEST.

WHA-CHOPPA

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAK

THE PROBABILITY ANNIHILATOR IS THE WORLD'S ONLY FIREARM WITH *100% GUARANTEED* PAYLOAD TO TARGET DELIVERY THAT'S--

THAT'S UNDER NEW *OWNERSHIP* AS OF NOW.

SMRB

BLAM BLAM

CRACK CRACK CRACK

OKAY. VEGAS HASN'T BEEN KIND *SO* FAR, BUT LIKE I *SAY*--

--ALL I NEED'S A LITTLE MORE LUCK.

BOOM BOOM BOOM

ALL RIGHT, PSYCHOS! PARTY'S OVER! EVERYBODY IN HERE CLEAR OUT OR DROP DEAD!

OVER--?

WHAAAAGH!

WHABOOM

IT'S MY PARTY...!

...and I'll die♫ ♪ if I want to! Slice if I want ♪ to! Fry if I want to!

LISTEN UP, SPROUT--

--YOU DROP THAT ATTITUDE, HUSTLE BACK HOME TO THE GIANT...

...AND UNCLE GRIFTER MIGHT NOT TEST YOUR UGLY MASK FOR ITS ARMOR-PIERCING-SHELL-RESISTANCE CAPACITY. DEAL?

THOK

LET'S MAKE A DEAL! I'M YOUR HOST, MONTY FIREBOMB-THE-ENTIRE-HALL!

I'LL TRADE ALL YOUR WEAPONS FOR MY MESSAGE OF PEACE!

SOK!

PEACE?

YOU BETCHA! A GUN IN THE HOME IS A DANGEROUS THINGY!

AND IF I HAVE TO KILL EVERY LAST PERSON IN HERE TO MAKE THEM REALIZE THAT, I WILL!

DIS IZ OUR CHANCE! NOBODY'S LOOKIN'! TAKE EVERYTHING DAT AIN'T TIED DOWN!

DA ONE-ARMED BANDITS MAKE THEIR STAND TODAY!

I TAKE IT YOU WERE HOME FROM SCHOOL WITH THE MUMPS THE DAY THEY COVERED LOGIC?

LOGIC? YOU CAN'T REASON WITH LUNATICS!

SPROING

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

NOW LET ME--

--GOOOOOOO!!

UNHH!

WHAM

...AND YOU WERE THERE... AND AUNTIE EM... AND HAND GRENADES AND...

LOOK, I GOT NO IDEA WHO OR WHAT YOU ARE, BUT YOU GOTTA STOP THIS.

GUNS AIN'T JUST A PROBLEM IN THIS HALL, GUNS'RE EVERYWHERE. FACT OF LIFE.

YOU WANT TO ELIMINATE 'EM? YOU'D HAVE TO WIPE OUT THIS WHOLE CITY, AN' THEN THE WHOLE COUNTRY AND--

YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE, BANDANNA BOY!

I SHOULD DEFINITELY TAKE THIS FIGHT OUTSIDE! SEE YA!

IF THERE'S ONE THING I SHOULD'VE LEARNED BY NOW...

...IT'S THAT AS FAR AS NUT CASES GO...

...YOU SHOULD ALWAYS SHOOT FIRST...

...AND ASK QUESTIONS AT THE INQUEST.

HEY! IT'S DAT GUY AGAIN! AN' LOOK...

...HE SNATCHED ONE A' DOSE HYPER-CANNONS!

SHADDAP ABOUT DAT GUY! JUST GET PACKIN'! WE GOT A CITY TA TAKE HOSTAGE FROM DA TOP DOWN!

VALET! GET MY MOUNT READY! I'VE GOT A NEW PLAN THAT CALLS FOR A VERY SPECIAL BEAST OF BURDEN.

AND IF BOB CALLS, TELL HIM I'M ON THE ROAD TO MOROCCO WITHOUT HIM.

HEY, YOU CAN'T CLIMB ON THE SPHINX. IT'S AN OFFICIAL VEGAS HISTORICAL LANDMARK. IT'S OVER TWO YEARS OLD.

LIKE TO PRE-REGISTER FOR NEXT YEAR'S--?

JUDGE THE GRAND MASQUERADE TONIGHT?

FILL OUT A SURVEY ABOUT THE CONVENTION?

NO, NO, AND DEFINITELY NO.

NO WAY! HOW'S HE DO THAT?

GIDDYUP, SPHINXY! HYAHH!

YOU CAN'T CHALLENGE MY CRUSADE, COWARDLY LION! YOU'VE GOT NO NERVE!

HEY! STOP! THERE'S PEOPLE IN THERE! THERE'S PEOPLE--!

PEOPLE--PEOPLE WHO BEAT PEOPLE ...ARE THE ♪ LUCKIEST ♪ PEOPLE IN THE...

PHAM PHAM PHAM

FORGET IT.

WELL, I THINK WE ALL SAW THIS GAG COMING A MILE DOWN THE FREEWAY.

SPCHNKF

BUT YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE!

SKUDA-WHA-CHOOM

TINK

SPASH

POKPOKPOK

AW... LION SLEEPY!

THAT'S OKAY, THOUGH, THERE'S PLENTY MORE TO SEE AND REND ON THIS STRIP! LIKE...

...BIG STONE HEADS ?!!!!

MOMMY! IT'S ME! YOUR BOUNCING, BABY BOULDER!

COPACABANA

BOUNCE ON THIS--

TAXI !!

EEEEEE

CLICK

HEY! NOBODY IGNORZ DA ONE-ARMED BANDITS!

BANDITS--?

PHA BOOM

HUH--?

WHERE'D HE--

KLIK

CAMELOT! CAMELOT! ♪ I KNOW IT SOUNDS A BIT LIKE WAR!

CAMELOT

I KNOW, MERLIN...

KAM

KAM

...WE'LL MAKE IT A RRRROUND TABLE!

WHRRRR

PHAM PHAM PHAM

I SAY WE JUST TABLE YOU.

CLEVER BANTER. THAT AND $1.95 WILL GET YOU THE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFET AT GUINEVERE'S GROTTO ON THE MORDRED LEVEL!

LIKE WE NEED ANOTHER NEW YORK?

AT LEAST WITH THIS ONE YOU'LL *KNOW* YOU'RE GONNA GET ROBBED THE MINUTE YOU SET FOOT INSIDE IT.

Coming Soon
MANHATTAN
MANHATTAN
Casinos, Cafes and Crime Crime Crime!

AND NOW, MY IMPERSONATION OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER..

UH-BOOOOM

--BOMBER!

HNNNUFF!

3 Card Monte

...UH, TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-*ONE*...

...UH, TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-*TWO*...

PHAM PHAM PHAM

SHINK! SPINK DINK

BRRRT

BRRT

I Could Tell

...UH, ONE...

...UH, TWO...

COME BACK HERE! YOU AIN'T GONNA SELL PEACE BY BLOWING STUFF UP!

LIKE I'M GONNA BELIEVE YOU ABOUT THAT?

ARABIAN

the FRIENDLY ITS SHEIK!

DAMN!

BIG $$$

COMIN' THROUGH! PAY NO ATTENTION TO THE MAN BEHIND THE MASK!

HOW DOES HE KEEP GETTIN' AWAY FROM ME?

BIG $$$

97.6% AVERAGE PAYBACK MY@$$!

NOTHIN' I HATE MORE THAN SEEIN' A BEAUTIFUL LADY LIKE YOURSELF GET GYPPED BY FALSE ADVERTISING.

LEAN BACK A SEC.

NOW IF YOU'LL 'SCUSE ME, MISS, I GOTTA NUTBAG TO SPOT.

C'MON, RED!

PHAM

SHINK SHINK SHINK SHINK SHINK

WHIZZ

Uh-oh!

RED! I WIN!!!

SPWAK!

UNHH!

CALIGULA'S PALACE

IS THAT A RIDING CROP UNDER THY TOGA OR ART THOU HAPPY TO SEE-EST ME, HECKLECLES?

THIS ISN'T THE *FORUM* FOR THAT SORT OF TALK, JECKLECLES.

SOMEONE ACTUALLY THOUGHT THAT WAS **FUNNY**?

TAKE THIS CHARIOT TO CUBA!

WHOA!

ANYBODY SEE A--YOU?!

HEY, IT'S DAT *GUY* AGAIN!

SHADDUP ABOUT DAT GUY!

YOU FREAKS AIN'T OUT ON YOUR "CLEANSE THE EARTH AND ARM IT" CAMPAIGN, ARE YA?

NNNNOOOOO...

HOLD IT!

SORRY, THE CHARIOT *GOES*, WITH OR WITHOUT YOU--!

LATER...GLADIATOR. HYAAAH! HYAAH!

COME BACK HERE AND FIGHT, YOU PIP-SQUEAK!

WHA--?!

SORRY, JULIUS--

--I NEED YOUR RIG! HYAH!!

WE'RE GONNA GET THE GLUE FACTORY FOR THIS, AREN'T WE?

ATTENTION, PEOPLE OF ROME!

BOOM

THAT OR WE'RE TONIGHT'S *PRIME-RIB* SPECIAL.

YOUR EMPIRE IS ABOUT TO FALL!

THE ONLY THING FALLING *HERE* IS YOUR I.Q.!

KWUD

YOU STAY AWAY FROM ME OR I'LL GIVE YOU THE *SPARTACUS* TREATMENT--

--AND I *DON'T* MEAN A SPONGE BATH FROM TONY CURTIS!

UH-OH!

CALIGULA'S PALACE

They're Still Alive!
STEEV & EDIE
Nightly at... 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8:00, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9:00

YOU SEE? MORE SENSELESS VIOLENCE! MASK MUST SMASH UNY SOCIETY!

YOU WANT THE WORLD TO *CHANGE*--

A YO

--YOU GOTTA STOP BEIN' *CRAZY* AND START ACTIN' LIKE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., OR GANDHI OR--

KRUNK

MUHAMMAD ALI?

THERE'S SOME-THIN' *SERIOUS* UNDER THIS NUT'S UGLY GREEN FACE MAT--

NOW, AS ROSS PEROT ONCE SAID, "HE WHO FIGHTS AND RUNS AWAY..."

STILL GETS CAUGHT AT THE END OF THE DAY.

--AND I'M GONNA FIND A WAY TO GET AT IT--

--STOP THIS REIGN OF DESTRUCTION BEFORE IT GOES ANY FARTHER--

The Oasis

SIGGFRIED & ROYY

--THOUGH MAYBE I *SHOULD* WAIT FOR HIM TO ICE SIGGFRIED AND ROYY FIRST.

SCHWICK

AFTER ALL, NOTHING WRONG WITH A LITTLE PUBLIC SERVICE, LONG AS IT DOESN'T DRAW *TOO* MUCH--

--ATTENTION.

WHABOOM

SHINNNKLL

IGGFRIED & ROYY

LOOK, BOSS, IT'S *HIM!* YOU WAN' US TA *MURDER* 'IM, THEN *PULVERIZE* 'IM, THEN...

GRIFTER! I SHOULD HAVE *KNOWN!*

HEY, DON'T BLAME *ME*, DINERO.

I JUST CAME BY TO DROP OFF THIS PROBABILITY ANNIHILATOR YOU WANTED AN' SETTLE OUR SCORE.

GIVE IT TO ME!

JUST PROMISE ME YOU WON'T FIRE IT 'TIL I'M OUTTA THE AREA--

--IT'S GOT A *SERIOUS* ATTITUDE.

VAD Hypercannon

IT LOOKS *BIGGER* IN PERSON.

BIGGER? *YEZ...*

HASTA, DINERO. I GOT *OTHER* BUSINESS TO FINISH UP.

WHA--?!

...BUT NOW I *VILL* MAKE ZE TIGER DISAPPEAR--

--WHILE ROYY COMMITS INDECENT ACTS VID DE SNOW LEOPARD.

FOLLOW THAT *BEAST!*

WHICH ONE?

Trinket Island

AVAST, YE GUN LUBBERS..

COME ON! SOUNDS LIKE THE SHOW'S STARTING!

Uh-oh.

--YOU'LL NOT BE SHOOTIN' E'RR AGAIN, ARRRRR.

BRAAAK! STOP THE VIOLENCE!

IT'S HIM ALL RIGHT--

--THE FREAK WHO TRIED TO SILENCE OUR FIRST-AMENDMENT RIGHTS!

SECOND AMENDMENT!

WHATEVER! SHOOT HIM FULL OF HOLES!

BRAAK! POLLY WANT SOME KEVLAR!

No! GUNS ARE BAD..

tWaK

POK POK

SPaK

SPaK

twinng!

Schuss

--WHEREAS FLAME THROWERS ARE A NICE ALTERNATIVE! LOOK, I'M *Cirque du Flambé*! UNHH--!?

COME ON, FACE-EN-STEIN. THIS *AIN'T* THE WAY.

LISTEN TO ME! VIOLENCE JUST GETS YOU MORE VIOLENCE.

THAT'S A LESSON I LEARNED LONG AGO. I'M TRAPPED BY THAT FACT, BUT YOU--

I WANNA GO TO THE CIRCUS!! CAN WE, CAN WE, PLEEEASE?

CARNIVAL CARNIVAL

LOOKING FOR FUN? LOOK FURTHER!

I WANNA SEE THE CIRC-- UUHHHK!

HIC

...NO HOPE...

DON'T EVEN THINK IT.

THINK WHAT? I COULD NEVER DESTROY A PLACE THIS PATHETIC. I JUST DON'T HAVE THE HEART.

GOOD.

CROSS MY HEART AND HOPE TO--

KABOOM

--LIE!

UUFF!

WHERE ARE THE CLOOOOWNS? THERE OUGHT TO BE CLOOOWNS!

...WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THAT JOLLY-GREEN JACKASS...

SHEIK

WHA-BOO-BOO-BOO-BOOOOOOM

GAAAH!

HOLY MOLEY!

CLEAR!

LET ME GUESS, GUY WITH A BIG, GREEN *MASK*?

NAH, JUST *DEMOLITION*. CITY LAW SAYS ANYTHING OVER TEN YEARS OLD GETS REPLACED WITH A FAMILY-STYLE, THEME PARK, CASINO RESORT.

STILL GONNA BE CALLED THE *SHEIK*?

NAH, YOU GOTTA HAVE A THEME EMBEDDED IN THE AMERICAN *PSYCHE*.

SO, WHAT'S THIS ONE GONNA BE BASED ON?

YA EVER SEE THAT MOVIE *ISHTAR*?

CAN'T SAY THAT I--

--I--

--I-YI-YIIII!

CLIIIIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN!

'TIL... YOU... FIND... YOUR... DREEEEAM!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I CLIMBED THE WHOLE THING!

NEXT TIME TRY THE ELEVATOR. NOW PUT YOUR HANDS UP.

YOU *CLAIM* TO BE A MAN OF PEACE. LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE *DONE*.

YOU'VE *DESTROYED* THE ENTIRE STRIP! I'M SAYIN' IT FOR THE LAST TIME...

...GIVE IT UP. GET SOME HELP.

PLEASE LISTEN TO HIM. *THIS* ISN'T THE WAY TO GET OUR *MESSAGE* OUT. AND EVEN IF YOU DON'T *BELIEVE* THAT, BELIEVE *THIS*...

...I *LOVE* YOU, PAUL NEWMAN.

PAUL NEWMAN, *huh*? LOVED YOU IN *COOL HAND LUKE*.

OH, NANCY! CAN YOU EVER **FORGIVE** ME, SCHNOO-KUMS?

IT'S NOT **ME**, IT'S THIS MASK! I CAN'T **CONTROL** IT! I--I--

SPLLUT

HEY!

AWRIGHT! NOBODY MOVE!

LEMME THROUGH! I CAN *STOP* HIM!

THAT'LL BE $12.50.

$12.50?!

EVERY-ONE PAYS ADMISSION, EVEN *HEROES*.

WE, DA ONE-ARMED BANDITS, CLAIM DIS TOWER IN DA NAME OF OUR SACRED *MISSION*!

SOMEONE CALL DA *MEDIA*, THOUGH. WE GOT A *MANIFESTO* WE WANT PUBLISHED BEFORE WE DO ANYTING *ELSE*.

HEY! IT'S DAT *GUY* AGAIN!

NOT YOU LOSERS...

NO DIVING

LOOK, PAUL. YOU WANT A CHANCE TO *REDEEM* YOURSELF? *DISTRACT* THESE FREAKS, *PEACEFULLY*, WHILE I GET INTO A POSITION TO TAKE 'EM OUT WITHOUT ANYBODY ELSE GETTIN' *HURT*.

YOU *GOT* IT, SKIPPER! I KNOW JUST WHAT THEY WANT.

OH, *BOYYYYZ*!

FLY ME TO THE MOON! TAKE ME UP TO THE HIGHEST STARS! ♪

WHAT DA HELL *IS* DAT UGLY TING?!

YOU AIN'T FOOLIN' *NOBODY*. YOU DAT GUY FROM DA *CONVENTION*--

--AN' PROBABLY OUR FIRST HOSTAGE KILLED IF DA *MEDIA* DON'T GET HERE *FAST*.

PROBABILITY--

--ANNIHILATED.

CHOOOM

UHN!

UHN!

UHN!

SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU USE A WEAPON *EFFECTIVELY?*

PAUL...? WHERE'D HE--

WHHUNNG

OH, NO...

HELLP!

EEK!

COOL RIDE...

BOOM

TIMMMBERRR!

KKKRRAASHA

CRASH!

SOMEBODY STOP ME!

PLEASE!

SKASH

PAUL! OMIGOD! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? PAUL?

NANCY... I'M SORRY. SORRY I HIT YOU. WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPENED?

UNNNNH... YOU...OKAY?

...SORRY...

OW OW OW OW...

I--I DID... ALL THIS *DAMAGE?*

NAH, IT WASN'T *YOU* EXACTLY. IT WAS THAT *MASK* YOU WERE WEARING.

BUT WITH A LITTLE LUCK, AND A LOT OF LAWYERS, WE CAN GET YOU *THROUGH* ALL THIS, PAUL.

SURE--

"--A LITTLE LUCK'S ALL ANYBODY IN *THIS* CITY NEEDS."

ISHTAR

MADGE?

YES, DORIS?

DID WE *REALLY* LOSE ALL OF THE CHURCH'S MONEY?

EVERY RED *CENT*, DORIS.

OOH! MADGE! LOOK, THERE'S SOMETHING BACK HERE IN THE FLOWER BED.

WHAT IS IT, DORIS?

IT'S A *MASK*. LOOKS *OLD*.

MAYBE IT'S AN *ANTIQUE*. WHAT SHOULD WE *DO* WITH IT?

LET'S *PAWN* IT. IF IT'S *WORTH* SOMETHING, WE CAN BE BACK ON THE CRAPS TABLES WITHIN THE HOUR.

WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO BE *CAREFUL*, THOUGH. IF IT'S A *VALUABLE* ANTIQUE, SOMEONE MAY TRY TO *STEAL* IT.

ARE YOU *PACKING HEAT*, MADGE?

YOU BETTER *BELIEVE* IT. A WOMAN CAN'T BE TOO SAFE IN THE WORLD...

...THOUGH I *DO* FEEL PRETTY LUCKY...

'NUFF SAID?

LOBO/THE MASK #1–#2

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Manhattan.

Tonight.

CRIPES. DIDN'T EVEN MAKE ENOUGH TO BUY A DECENT MEAL.

Ira Staub has had a long, fruitless day at work--

--and he's looking for a little overtime.

SAY, GRANMAW. LOOKS LIKE THAT PURSE IS SLOWING YOU DOWN SOME.

CHIK

HOLD ON! IS THAT A STEAK DINNER I SEE HOBBLING ACROSS THE STREET?

LEMME LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD A MITE.

OH, MERCY. PLEASE BE CARE-FUL WITH THAT KNIFE.

RELAX, GRANNY. JUST HAND OVER THE DOUGH AND NOBODY'LL GET HURT.

I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE ABOUT THAT, DIRTBAG!

NO PARKING 3PM-2AM 3AM-2PM

HALT, SLIME BUCKET! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

JEEZ, COPS DRESSING UP LIKE OLD LADIES?! THAT'S JUST DOWNRIGHT SNEAKY.

Later, but not much.

YOU HEARD ME, I LOST SIGHT OF THE SKELL. I JUST COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH HIM.

HOW COME, LIEUTENANT?

AHH, IT'S THESE DANG HEELS.

BUT DON'T WORRY. HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN TOO FAR. I WANT YOU AND BEN TO MOVE IN REAL SLOW. WE'LL GET HIM.

SHOULD WE CALL IN MORE BACKUP?

I DON'T THINK IT'S NECESSARY.

THE PATHETIC LOSER ISN'T EVEN ARMED.

Yesterday. Definitely not Manhattan.

HMMMM.

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE SAME LOBO I ASKED YOU TO RETRIEVE, ELDEEWT?

YES, CHAIRMAN MUZGROF. HIS VISUAL IDENT STATS, HIS VOICE FREQUENCY--

--EVEN HIS PORE PATTERN AND BONE DENSITY SPECS ALL MATCH UP. THIS IS HE, SIR.

WELL, NEVERTHELESS, I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR IT FROM THIS... FELLOW HIMSELF.

ARE YOU, INDEED, THE RENOWNED LOBO, BOUNTY HUNTER NONPAREIL, FEARED BY OUTLAWS IN ALL QUADRANTS OF THE UNIVERSE?

BUH-YURRP!

FRAGGIN' "A" RIGHT I AM!

HEY, I THOUGHT YOU GUYS SAID THERE WUZ GIRLS AT THIS PARTY!

SCRITCH!

SKRATCH!

PARTY?

HE SAID HE WAS ON HOLIDAY, SIR. LYING TO HIM WAS THE ONLY WAY WE COULD GET HIM TO COME WITH US.

WELL, MR. LOBO, THIS IS NOT TRULY A PARTY.

WHAT!?!

N-NOW HEAR ME OUT, GOOD FELLOW.

YOU SEE BEFORE YOU A VERITABLE SCOURGE OF THE GALAXY. HE IS MORE LIKE A COSMIC DISEASE THAN A MAN, A BLIGHT UPON ALL LIFE THAT SHOULD HAVE THE MISFORTUNE TO IMPEDE HIS HAVOC-WREAKING PROGRESS ACROSS THE STARS!

THE CREATURE WITH NO NAME HAS-1) PLUNDERED A DOZEN WORLDS, 2) MASSACRED ENTIRE GOVERNMENTS, 3) DESTROYED SEVERAL STAR FLEETS--

OKAY, OKAY! SO HE'S GOT AMBITION!

WHATTAYA TRYING TO DO, GIVE ME AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX?

UMM, NO. WE REPRESENT A CONSORTIUM OF "AFFECTED" WORLDS WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS TERATISMIC TERRORIST APPREHENDED--

UH UH! NO FRAGGIN' WAY, MUZZY M'MAN!

I TOLD YER BOYS, I'M ON VACATION! I DON'T GET ME MUCH TIME OFF, SO I TAKE MY R&R REAL SERIOUS, LIKE!

I'LL BE BACK TO WORK IN A COUPLE WEEKS. IF YER STILL ALIVE, GIMME A CALL.

THAT'S FOR LYING TO ME ABOUT TH' PARTY, YA' STINKIN' CUCARACHA!

THOK!

DID I MENTION THAT WE'RE OFFERING A BOUNTY OF ONE BILLION CREDS?

SOUNDS LIKE HE'S GONE.

MAN, THAT DISGUISE BUSINESS DON'T HARDLY SEEM FAIR.

I MEAN, THERE'S RULES OF LAW AND ORDER, AND IF THE COPS DON'T FOLLOW 'EM, HOW'M I SUPPOSED TO MAKE A LIVING?

SAAAY, THIS IS A FIND.

I BET LENNY THE FENCE'D GIVE ME AT LEAST $50.00 FOR A QUALITY PIECE LIKE THAT.

LOOKS LIKE THE NIGHT AIN'T A TOTAL LOSS.

MUSTA BEEN FATE THAT TURNED ME INTO THIS ALLEY.

THIS WAY, MEN!

OUR INFRARED SCANNERS HAVE PICKED UP THE PSYCHOPATH'S SPECIFIC HEAT TRAIL LEADING RIGHT INTO THIS ALLEY!!*

* YOU WOULDN'T THINK THAT ALIENS FROM ACROSS THE GALAXY WOULD SPEAK ENGLISH, BUT THERE YOU HAVE IT.

FIRE!

WHIZ

BANG!

BOOM!

KRAK!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

WE HAVE FINALLY HUNTED YOU DOWN, PERNICIOUS SCUM, WITHOUT THE OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE OUR ELDERS HAD PLANNED. PREPARE YOURSELF FOR OBLIVION.

NOW THOSE AREN'T DISGUISES!! THEY DON'T EVEN SOUND LIKE COPS!

UNLESS THEY'RE FROM L.A.!

WHAT THE--?

DIE, VILE SWI-- HUH!?

OH, BOYS...

OR WHATEVER YOU ARE.

WHICH ONE OF YOU DIAPER-SNIFFING, BED-WETTING, POWDER-PUFFING, DOILY DOLLS WANTS TO BE FIRST TO SEE HIS COLON FROM THE INSIDE?

AN AIR TO SURFACE MISSILE LAUNCHER, LIFETIME SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS FER MY HAWG, A WATER BED FILLED WITH PRICEY HOOCH.

WE HAVE A SECURITY COALITION TRACKING YOUR QUARRY, FACILITATING YOUR JOB SOMEWHAT.

DAMN, WHAT AM I THINKIN'! WITH A BILLION CREDS, I COULD BUY ME A FRAGGIN' ISLAND SOMEWHERES!

THIS DISC WILL GIVE YOU THE COORDINATES OF THEIR LAST TRANSMISSION, FROM THE TERRAN SYSTEM, I BELIEVE.

SCRAM!

yeahhh...

MR. LOBO?

MR. LOBO, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

EH?

HEY, WATCH THAT HAND IF YOU WANNA KEEP IT ON YER WRIST.

I'M SORRY. IT SEEMED TO ME AS IF YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN DAYDREAMING.

NAW! I WUZ JUST, er, PLANNIN' MY STRATEGY FER TH' COMIN' BATTLE, IS ALL.

VROOOM!

NOW, DON'T WORRY 'BOUT A THING, BOSS!

THE MAIN MAN'S ON TH' JOB!

SO START COUNTIN' OUT MY MONEY, MUZZY!!!

ZKODD, IS THAT THE SAME GENOCIDAL BEAST WE'RE LOOKING FOR?

I'M NOT SURE. HE APPEARS...LESS THREATENING.

OH, SO I'M A NANCY-BOY, IS THAT IT?

WELL, MAYBE THIS'LL SCARE YOU!

POP!

OR THIS!

POP!

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION

OR HOWZABOUT THIS?

'COURSE, YOU CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER.

BUT WHO'S GOT TIME TO READ THESE DAYS?!

SKRAK!

FIRE!!!

ZZZAP!

ZZAK!

ZZAK!

WHIZZ!

;YAWN; HOW DEPRESSINGLY PREDICTABLE.

IF YOU WANT A GAG DONE RIGHT...

BLAZAM!

URGGLER

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

YOU--YOU MONSTER!! YOU FOUL REEKING, DETESTABLE DUNGHEAP! YOU RAT-HEARTED, PUS-FILLED, GANGRENOUS CANKER!!!

WELL, I DON'T LIKE TO BRAG.

YAAAAA!

SKRRITCH!

Now, Now. No ARGUMENTS.

YOU SIMPLY MUST STAY FOR DINNER.

NO, I'M NOT DRUNK! SOME KINDA FLYING SAUCER LANDED ON TOP OF MY BACKUP CAR.

NOW I WANT A BLUE AND WHITE OUT HERE A.S.A.P.!!

Hey, lookee there!

YES, LIEUTENANT ERMAF.

MUST BE ON TH' RIGHT TRAIL.

THAT'S GOTTA BE TH' SHIP THAT'S TAILIN' MY BOUNTY FER ME.

YO, GRANNY! MEBBE YOU C'N HELP ME OUT.

YOU HAPPEN TO SEE WHERE THE MOOKS THAT WUZ DRIVIN' THIS HERE JALOPY WENT?

SLAP!

HOLY JUMPING MOSES!! IT'S SOME KINDA ALIEN FREAK!

WHOA, CLYDE! I'D SAY THAT'S A CASE OF TH' OUTHOUSE CALLIN' TH' SEWER STINKY.

AH, MY BACKUP'S HERE ALREADY. WE GOT YA' NOW, E.T.!

POLICE

IZZATAFACT?

SKRASH!

FREEZE!!!

FRAG OFF!

BOOM!

I CAN SEE TH' LOCALS AIN'T GONNA BE MUCH HELP.

GUESS I JUST GOTTA KEEP MY EYES PEELED FOR ANYTHIN' UNEARTHLY-LIKE.

NOT BAD--BUT I THINK TOMORROW I'LL TRY MEXICAN.

HHHHELP...

HELL--

NOW, THAT GUY DON'T LOOK LIKE HE'S FROM AROUND HERE.

SEE, THIS HERE'S WHAT YA GET WHEN YA SEND AMATEURS TO DO A BASTICH'S JOB.

♫ I'M GONNA WASH THAT MAN RIGHT OUTTA MY TEETH. ♫

WHOOZAT?!?

IT'S A WARHEAD WITH YER FRAGGIN' NAME ON IT, THAT'S WHO!

FEETAL IS GIZZ! LOOKIT YA, YA SCRAWNY GEEK!

THIS IS GONNA BE TH' EASIEST BILLION CREDS I'LL EVER MAKE.

And so, the two combatants meet on a dark and blood-drenched landscape, so perfectly suited to the coming titanic battle that one might almost believe it had been invented for just that purpose.

SNUFF PUNK! PUT 'EM UP, PUT 'EM UP!!!

For both mighty warriors there is no other place, no other time. There is nothing else in the world but here, now, and a worthy opponent.

TIK TAKKA TIK CLACKITY CLICKITTY TAK

Each knows, down to the very smelly soles of his feet, that he may not survive this colossal confrontation.

???

But, when tempers flare, when blood boils, when burgers grill and when cheese melts--

TAKKITTA KITTY CAT TICK ATTACK KHAKI HACK HACK

I THINK IT'S GOING PRETTY GOOD, DON'T YOU?

WHACK!!

INTERMISSION

WHADDYA THINK O' THE PRODUCTION SO FAR, DUDE?

SHOW ME TO THE BAR, MAN. PLEASE SHOW ME TO THE BAR!

EXIT

KIDS! DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME!

OWW! WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOING, YOU LOWBROW BRUTE!

YOU'RE STANDING ON MY FOOT!

AN' NOW I'M TWEAKIN' YER STUPID NOSE, RIGHT?

OWW!

AND I'M SHOWING YOU HOW WE USED TO MAKE A VENETIAN BLIND, BACK IN THE OLD DAYS!

OY VE!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT-- AAAH!

EXCUSE ME, YOU SAVAGE-- UNGH!

HEY...! I'VE FORGOT WHAT TH' STORY'S ABOUT, MAN!

ME, TOO! BUT DON'T SWEAT IT-- THEY CATER FOR DUDES LIKE US!

THE STORY SO FAR...

WONDER IF THEY GOT ANY NAKED CHICKS?

THE STORY SO FAR--

HI. I'M IRA STAUB, A SMALL-SCALE ENTREPRENEUR*. SINCE I SLAPPED ON THIS WEIRD MASK I FOUND, I'VE BEEN HAVING A BALL FIGHTING NEW YORK COPS AND HEAVY-DUTY ALIENS!

* LOW-LIFE CRIMINAL OPPORTUNIST.

CHONK!

YO! YA DON'T NEED ME T'TELL YA I'M LOBO, TH' MAIN MAN, BEST BOUNTY HUNTER IN TH' BIZ! I BEEN HIRED BY A CONSORTIUM OF ALIEN FUGWITS T' TRACK DOWN AN' KILL SOME BAD-ASS ULTIMATE BASTICH.

I FIGURE I GOT HIM!

THUNK!

HELLO. THIS IS EDITOR BAD DAN RASPLER. ARCUDI AND GRANT DIDN'T COME UP WITH MUCH OF A STORY, SO I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO SEE A WHOLE LOT OF ABSOLUTELY GRATUITOUS VIOLENCE--

THUNK

AAH!

SO...YA THINK YER A *HARD* BASTICH, HUH?

SO...YA THINK YER A *HARD* BASTICH, HUH?

I'LL SOON SHOW YA TH' *ERROR* O' YER WAYS!

I'LL SOON SHOW YA TH' *ERROR* O' YER WAYS!

STAB!

SLICE!

SLASH!

I'LL *POUND* YA *FLATTER* THAN A FRAGGIN' *POTATO* PANCAKE!

WHAK!

WHUMP!

WHAK!

WILL YOU STOP REPEATIN' EVERYTHIN' I SAY?

I SAID SHUT TH' FRAG UP!

RUBBER MAN, HUH?

NO SWEAT! I KNOW FIFTY WAYS T'KILL A BASTICH!

WAM WAM WAM

♪ LIKE, I CAN MAKE HIM CHOKE, ♪ FOLK!

♪ SNAP HIS FRAGGIN' NECK, JECK! ♪

♪ SQUEEZE TH' GOAT'S THROAT-- ♪

♪ PITY YOU CAN'T SING, ♪ BING!

HOW TH' HELL D'YA DO THAT?

NEVER MIND ANSWERIN', 'CUZ I DON'T REALLY CARE!

LET'S JUST SEE HOW VERSATILE YA ARE, YA STRETCHY GEEK--

TWIP TWIP TWIP

SAYONARA, GIMPO!

MULTIPLYIN' TH' COEFFICIENT O' LINEAR EXPANSION BY THE SPEED O' TH' CAB DUDE-- ALLOWIN' FER WIND CHILL AN' POTENTIAL TORQUE--

I FIGURE YER READY TA SNAP--

SNAP!

RIGHT ABOUT NOW!

EASIEST MONEY I EVER MADE!

THEM ALIENS MUST HAVE CRUD FER BRAINS, PAYIN' OUT A BILLION SMACKER-OONIES FER MR. LESS-THAN-FAN-FRAGGIN'-TASTIC!

POIK!

FEETAL'S GIZZ! HOW TH' FRAG DO YA DO THAT?

RHETORICAL QUESTION?

WOORS!

SQUUCH!

NOW, AS I WUZ SAYIN'--

HOW MUCH BOOZE 'N' SEX CAN YA GET FER A BILLION CREDS... AN' SHOULD I BUY A PRIVATE ISLAND T'ENJOY THEM ON?

SCRITCH!

HUH?

FSSSSS

BAWOOM F

YAH!

WOULD YA BELIEVE THAT? SKINNY BASTICH GOT ME FROM BEYOND TH' FRAGGIN' GRAVE!

HOLY FRAGGA-ROLEY!

POOM!

FOOM!

BOOM!

BAKKABAKKA!

BAKKABAKKA!

YOU AIN'T WELCOME IN THESE PARTS, STRANGER, THIS IS HELL'S CABBY TURF!

HELL'S CABBIES

BAKKABAKKA

BAKKABAKKA

I'LL GIVE YOU HELL!

FRAGGAFRAGGAFRAGGA!

BAKKABAKKABAKKA!

SUCK SPAZZFRAG SHELL, STRAWHEAD!

WHOOM!

FWOOSH!

NEW YORK'S USUALLY CRAWLING WITH HEROES, RIGHT? YOU CAN'T GO OUT FOR PIZZA WITHOUT FALLING OVER SOME MUTANT OR META-HUMAN.

YOU'D THINK THEY'D BE OUT THERE NOW, USING THEIR POWERS TO TRY AND STOP THESE TWO PSYCHOTIC MANIACS FROM KILLING EACH OTHER AND DESTROYING THE CITY. SO WHERE ARE THEY ALL?

--JUST REMEMBERED, I'M DUE IN HAWAII--

--NICE LITTLE DRY CLEANER OVER THE RIVER--

--PARTY ABOUT A HUNDRED MILES UPSTATE--

--SISTER'S GETTING MARRIED--

--EUROPEAN VACATION--

--GOOD TIME TO HAVE THAT COLONIC SURGERY--

HEH! CALL YOURSELVES HEROES, HUH? HAH!

HEROES, HUH!

WHAK!

SKRAK!

KLAK!

POK!

FWOOM!

BRAKKABRAKKA!

FRAGGAFRAGGA!

FRAGGAFRAGGA!

WANNA PLAY CHICKEN, HUH?

PHILBERTS

TOYS AND LINGER

I DO DECLARE I DO! I SAY, I DO DECLARE I DO!

VROOOM!

TAXI

I KNEW IT! YER CHICKEN, YA CHICKEN!

EXPRESS

WAKOOM!

THAT IS IT, CREEP! I'M FINISHED GOIN' EASY ON YA! YOU ARE BLOOD-SOAKED PÂTÉ!

HELL'S CABBIES FEAR NO ONE-- NO MAN, NO DOG NO BISCHIT!

GONNA WORK UP A LITTLE SPEED FER THIS ONE...!

TAXI

I GOT GRENADES, NAIL-BOMBS, PLASTEEK AN' A HALF-OUNCE O' REAL HOT CHILI POWDER!

WHAT'S YER ANSWER TO THAT, GOOMBALL?

HELL'S CABBIES
GRIDLOCK BUSTER

KA-BWA-HOOM!

--DIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS THE 86TH FLOOR, WHERE WE CAN TAKE THE POWER ELEVATOR RIGHT TO THE TOP!

FIVE MINUTE PHOTO-OP BEFORE WE HIT THE HEIGHTS, EVERYBODY!

SMASH!

BEG PARDON, BABE!

EEK!

WONDER WHERE THAT SLIPPERY BASTICH GOT TA...?

KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK

KRASH!

ER... THAT'LL BE $1.75, PLEASE, SIR!

SURE, CLYDE. KEEP TH'CHANGE!

CREEP MIGHT'VE HAD A LITTLE CONSIDERATION! I'M GONNA HAVETA GO UP THERE AN' RETRIEVE HIS SCURVY BODY!

BUT IT'LL BE WORTH IT IN TH' END!

POOF!

I can't stand it much longer! I've been cooped up in the body of this giant ape for centuries, going slowly insane.

FEETAL'S FRAGGIN' GIZZ! THIS CREEP'S MAKIN' A MONKEY OUTTA ME!

I've long since forgotten all the social graces. I have no friends, no mommy to tuck me up safe at night.

I prowl the rooftops of the world, aching for my lush green jungle. Oh, how I long for someone to talk to!

But all I can say is--

GRRAAARRRRR!

YA BIG APE! YA'LL KNOW WHAT TROUBLE MEANS NOW YA'VE TANGLED WITH TH' MAIN MAN!

FRAGGA FRAGGA

?

FOOD?

FOOD!

BUURRP!

AWOOAWOOAWOOAA!

?

YAAAAWOO!

'LEAST, IT *WOULD* BE IF I HAD ANY FRAGGIN' *LIMBS* LEFT!

BY THE WAY, I LEFT A SMALL *GIFT* IN YER GIZZARD-- TWO *MINI-NUKES* ON A TEN-SECOND FUSE!

JUST LONG ENOUGH FER ME T' GET *CLEAR!*

FLUPP!

FRAGABOOMBOOM!

SKLATCH!

FUMP!

I AIN'T FINISHED WITH YOU YET, DUDE-- NOT BY A LONG WAYS!

FWIP!

IT'S YOUR PARTY, STUPID!

WHOMP!

KRONK!

SLICE!

DICE!

SLISH!

SLASH!

BOK!

KRANG!

KLANG!

NOW I'M GONNA HAVETA WAIT TILL MY BODY REGROWS ITSELF!

WHY COULDN'T YA DIE EASY LIKE SOME NORMAL CREEP? YA SOME KINDA PERV OR SOMETHIN'?

STICKS AND STONES WILL BREAK MY BONES BUT NAMES WILL NEVER HURT ME!

IZZATSO? WELL, HOW ABOUT THESE-- BUTT-FACE! DRONG-WIT! GEEKOID!

PAH! AMATEUR DOODLINGS, SIR! WATER OFF A DUCK'S BACK! YOU CHEW ON THESE--

COLON-BREATH! SPLEEN-FACE! CHINTZ-HEAD!

WHAT? NOBODY SEZ THAT TA ME, YA FOUL-MOUTHED FRAGGIN' FEEB!

SUPPURATING SORE-FEATURES! FART-BRAIN! CUTESY-BOY!

ONE WAY

CUTESY-BOY?

BASTARD!

I, OF COURSE, DON'T HAVE THE HASSLE OF WAITING FOR A NEW BODY TO GROW!

HUH?

CHICKEN CHICKEN

SIMPO!

RUBBER MAN, HUH?

FIFTY WAYS T'KILL A BASTICH!

FAN-FRAGGIN'-TASTIC!

DOM-BALL!

BONEHEAD! CREEP!

WHATCHA DOIN?

I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU A LESSON, YOU NAUGHTY BOY!

FIFTY WAYS T'KILL A BASTICH!

THUNK!

GLUBB!

I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU EAT YOUR WORDS!

RAM!

SHOVE!

GLUBTH! FLUGTH!

WHAT'S THAT? YOU'RE A SPORTING STUDENT?

THEN LET'S PLAY BALL!

PUNT!

THINK YER A TOUGH NUT, DON'TCHA?

YEP.

BUT I'M NOT THE TOUGH NUT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

WHADDYAMEAN?

I MEAN, I THINK YOU MUST ACTUALLY WANT MY LAST OWNER.

OWNER? WHAT'RE YA DRIBBLIN' ABOUT?

I'M A MASK, SEE.

COOL! GIMME A SHOT, MAN!

YOU JEST! YOU HAVE ENOUGH ON YOUR FACE ALREADY!

NOW, THE GUY THAT'S WEARING ME ISN'T THAT BIG A BASTICH, AND HE CERTAINLY ISN'T ANY ULTIMATE BASTICH. BUT MY LAST OWNER--

HE WAS A TOUGH ONE, AND NO MISTAKE!

PERHAPS YOU AND I CAN COME TO SOME SORT OF ARRANGEMENT...?

SO HERE'S THE DEAL-- YOU TELL ME WHERE THIS EX-OWNER *IS*, I GO *FRAG* HIM, AND I GIVE YA *TWENTY PERCENT* O' TH' REWARD!

HMM. HE'S A REAL TOUGH GUY. YOU'LL PROBABLY NEED ME TO HELP YOU OUT.

WHAT SAY I TELL YOU WHERE THIS EX-OWNER IS, WE BOTH GO FRAG HIM, AND YOU GIVE ME TEN PERCENT OF THE REWARD?

DONE!

DONE!

CHUMP!

I EAT DOG WASTE

KICK MY BUTT

LOBO'S BEEN HIRED BY AN ALIEN RACE DOO-DAH! DOO-DAH! TO WASTE THE ULTIMATE BASTICH'S FACE OH, DOO-DAH-DAY!

THE MASK'S HIS PARTNER (OR SO HE THINKS) DOO-DAH! DOO-DAH! BUT MASK'S TURNING OUT TO BE A JINX! OH, DOO-DAH-DAY!

GONNA FRAG ALL NIGHT! GONNA MAIM ALL DAY! YOU CAN BET YOUR BUTT THE BAD BASTICH WON'T GET AWAY!

SHAPE UP, GANG! LOBO AND MASK ARE HEADED THIS WAY!

ACCORDING TO KILLER KAINE--WHO GOT IT FROM MAD FRANKIE PLUS, WHO SAW THEM BUTCHER A THOUSAND OUTLAWS ON WAYNE'S WORLD--THEY THINK THAT I'M THE ULTIMATE BASTICH!

THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY TO WASTE US FOR THE BILLION-CRED REWARD!

WHADDYA MEAN, BOSS--THEY THINK YOU'RE THE ULTIMATE BASTICH, BUT THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY TO WASTE US?

YOU'RE MY GANG, AIN'TCHA? WE'VE DONE LOTSA BAD THINGS.

STANDS TO REASON WE'LL STICK TOGETHER NOW!

DON'T STAND TO MY REASON, BOSS! I AIN'T FIGHTIN' THESE GUYS!

ME NEITHER! THEY'RE STONE KILLERS!

I'M OUTTA HERE!

HERE THEY COME!

ARE YOU SURE THAT THIS GUY'S TH'ULTIMATE BASTICH?

SURE I'M SURE!

THAT'S WHAT YA SAID TH' LAST FIVE TIMES!

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY, RIGHT?

AWRIGHT! LET'S GET THIS MOTHER WRAPPED--AN' PICK UP THAT FAT-BUCK REWARD!

FRAGGA FRAGGA FRAGGA!

BUHMBUHM!

THAT'S THE GUY WE WANT! I'D KNOW HIM ANYWHERE!

WHOOM!

LESSEE WHAT YER MADE O', BASTICH!

WHAK!

WHOMP!

WHAM!

WHAMP!

THAT YER BEST? MAN, YA AIN'T EVEN TH' PEN-ULTIMATE BASTICH WITH *PANTY-LINER MOVES* LIKE *THAT!*

SLISH!

SLICE!

2! 4! 6! 0! WE SUPPORT THE MAIN MAN 'BO!

WHOMP!

WHAMP!

LOOO MASK

L-O-B-O!
LOBO!

QUIT PUTZIN' AROUND! IS THIS HIM?

HMMM. IT LOOKS LIKE HIM... AND IT SMELLS LIKE HIM!

BUT IT'S NOT HIM! HE'S A DAMNED IMPOSTOR!

TALK, BUSTER! WHERE'S THE REAL ULTIMATE BASTICH?

SLAP

SLAP

H-HOW THE HELL DO I KNOW...? =ACK=

WHAT DID TH' CREEP SAY?

EXACTLY WHAT WE WANTED TO HEAR! HE TOLD ME PRECISELY WHERE TO FIND OUR QUARRY!

LOOK, YA FEEB--THIS IS TH' SIXTH GUY YA'VE TOLD ME WUZ TH' BASTICH. I'VE KILLED THOUSANDS O' FOLK, AN' EVERY TIME YOU SAY "SORRY, I GOT IT WRONG!"

I CAN'T HELP IT. MY TIME WITH MY PREVIOUS OWNER WAS HIGHLY TRAUMATIC. NO WONDER I'M CONFUSED!

THEN GIVE ME THAT FRAGGIN' MASK AND I'LL FIND HIM!

WE MADE A DEAL! I THOUGHT LOBO WAS A MAN OF HIS WORD!

TRUE ENOUGH, DUDE!

THAT CHUMP I KILLED GIVE YA ANY OTHER CLUES?

SPROING!

UH-HUH! HE SAID WE WERE GONNA NEED REALLY BIG ARMAMENTS!

♪ ON THEIR WAY THE TWO THEN WENT- DOO DAH! DOO DAH! LEAVING LOTS OF DEAD BAD MEN OH, DOO-DAH DAY! ♪

♪ GONNA BASH ALL NIGHT! GONNA TRASH ALL DAY! YOU CAN BET YOUR BUTT THAT THE BAD BASTICH IS FINALLY GOING TO PAY!

ARMS DEPOT

TOP SECRET

WEIRD WEAPONS

HEAVILY FORTIFIED! BUT FEAR NOT, PARD--

WE CAN BE IN AND OUT WITH MINIMUM FUSS!

COOL! MAYBE I *MISJUDGED* YA, MASK. YER GONNA *EARN* YER TEN-- THAT IS, YER *FIVE* PERCENT O'TH' REWARD!

WASTE

BAY DOOR

OPEN

KLIK!

HEH! THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY...!

ORPHAN GRINDER

KLIK

BLAM BLAM BOOM BOOM WHOOM WHOOM POOM POOM POOM POOM BLAM BLAM

INTRUDER ALERT! INTRUDER ALERT!

♪ LOBO'S SHAFTED ONCE AGAIN DOO DAH! DOO DAH! HE'LL WISE UP, BUT WE WONDER WHEN OH, DOO-DAH-DAY! ♪

GUESS YOU THOUGHT THAT WUZ FUNNY, HUH?

WASN'T IT? THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE WHEN THE ALARM WENT OFF...!

KEEP YER BUTT OFF TH' PILLOW!

I LIKE A JOKE AS MUCH AS TH' NEXT GUY, DUDE--IN FACT, I LIKE A JOKE *MORE* THAN TH' NEXT GUY! BUT YA GOTTA *LEARN*--

PLIK!

PLIK!

WHOOM

LESSEE WHAT WE GOT HERE...

BAD GUY DETECTOR! JUST WHAT TH' DEATH-DOC ORDERED!

I AIN'T TAKIN' NO MORE CHANCES! *YOU* SET IT.

IRREDEEMABLE

AWFUL

VERY BAD

I'LL DO TH' SHOOTIN'!

WHOOSH!

SETTING 139, ALPHA-BETA-SOUPA!

FWOOOSH!

SORRY, WRONG SETTING! TRY 138 BETA-GAMMA-HAMMA!

LET ME TRY ONE MORE TIME--

NEVER MIND!

IF WE EVER WANT TO CATCH THIS GUY, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR IT--

KABOOM!

Y'KNOW, I'M REALLY BEGINNIN' T'WONDER ABOUT YOU!

BRING ON THE HEAVY-DUTY ORDNANCE.

CHAIN REACTOR

I'VE PROGRAMMED IT WITH EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT OUR TARGET. WE'RE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN TO GET HIM THIS TIME-- WHEREVER HE IS!

CHAIN REACTOR, HUH? WONDER WHY THEY CALL IT THAT?

IT PROBABLY REACTS WITH CHAINS, OR SOMETHING. BUT ENOUGH GASSING--

PREPARE TO FIRE!

WELL BACK LIGHT BLUE TANK AND STAND BY

FSSSS

ZZZZAP!

NOW, GROWING BOYS GOT TO HAVE THEIR FUN DOO-DAH! DOO DAH! BUT THEY NEVER SHOULD'VE FIRED THAT GUN OH DOO DAH

DAAAAYYYY!

KABWOOMP!

WAKOOM!

BADOOM!

KAKABOOM!

MAN! WE DESTROYED TH' WHOLE FRAGGIN' SYSTEM!

OOPS!

HAHAHAHA!

THEY HUNTED THE SUN-GOD EVERYWHERE
♪ DOO DAH! DOO DAH! TRACKED AND KILLED HIM IN HIS LAIR OH, DOO DAH DAY! ♪

♪ THEN THEY KILLED THE MOONGOD, TOO DOO-DAH! DOO DAH! A NICE KIND OF GUY LIKE ME AND YOU OH, DOO-DAH-DAY! ♪

♪ GONNA BASH ALL NIGHT! GONNA SMASH ALL DAY! THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE NO BAD GUYS LEFT THEY'VE FRAGGED 'EM ALL AWAY! ♪

THAT'S HIM! THAT'S THE ULTIMATE BASTICH!

WOOPS! WRONG AGAIN!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

FRAG! FRAG! FRAG!

RIM O'THE HOLE

THE RIM O'THE HOLE... THE TOUGHEST BAR IN THE UNIVERSE! THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT TO LOOK--

THE ULTIMATE BASTICH MUST BE HERE!

THIS IS YER *LAST* CHANCE, GECKO! IF HE *AIN'T* HERE, THIS PARTNERSHIP IS *SUNDERED*... AN' LIKEWISE YOUR *BODY*!

OH YEAH! SEZ WHO?

SEZ ME!

WHO? YOU?

ME? ME!

NOT ME! YOU!

YOU? I THOUGHT IT WUZ *ME*!

ENOUGHA THIS CRAPOLA! LET'S JUST GO INSIDE, HAVE A NICE PEACEFUL *DRINK* AN' CHECK EVERYTHIN' OUT.

NO *INSULTS*--NO *PROVOCATIONS*--NO STARTIN' NO FRAGGIN' *FIGHTS*! RIGHT?

YOUR EVERY WISH IS MY COMMAND, O, MASTER!

TWO BUCKETS O' STRONGBOOZ, BARKEEP!

BOUNTY HUNTER! KILLS MEN FOR MONEY!

HE'S MAYBE AFTER YOU!

PSST! HE SAYS YOU DON'T WASH YOUR FRILLIES!

GRRRR!

HEY, MASK! YOU *WANT* THIS BOOZE, OR WILL I--

HUH?

YEP! HIM!

NTLEMEN

BAM BAM BAM

CHOW

CHOW

ZZAK

ZZAK

BLAM

BLAM

CHONK

ZAK ZAK ZAK ZAK

FOOM!

UHHH...

WHAT'S UP, DOC?

Y'KNOW, CLYDE, I KINDA *LIKE* YOU. I LIKE TH' WAY YER *ALWAYS* CAUSIN' *TROUBLE*.

BUT IT'S BEGINNIN' TA *IM*-FRAGGIN'-*PINGE* ON THIS JOB, AN' HENCE MY LIKELIHOOD O' PICKIN' UP THAT VERY ATTRACTIVE *BILLION CREDS!*

YOU'RE RIGHT. I'VE JUST BEEN STRINGING YOU ALONG.

FATAL MISTAKE, CHARLIE! NOBODY TREATS TH' MAIN MAN LIKE A STOOGE!

WE'RE THE STOOGES, WISEGUY!

YEAH! SO CUT THE CACKLE, SEE!

POKE!

BONK!

CACKLE, EH?

YOU HAVE THAT FOR NOTHIN'!

WISEGUYS!

SLAP

SLAP

SLAP

CHONK!

MY PATIENCE IS AT AN END, DUDE. GIMME TH' STUPID MASK!

DON'T BE RIDICILITH! IT THAYTH WHERE IT ITH!

OH YEAH? WHAT IF I KILL TH'CHUMP THAT'S WEARIN' IT?

IMPOTHIBLE! HE WHO WEARTH THE MATHK CAN NEVER DIE!

SLASH! RIP! SLICE! IZZATSO? SHRED! KRACKLE SNAP! POP! GUT!

YEP!

YER ONE TOUGH EGG, CLYDE. GUESS THIS CALLS FER A CHANGE O' TACTIC!

SNAP!

CHEW ON THIS! IT'S A LITTLE SOMETHIN' I PICKED UP IN TH' WEAPONS DEPOT!

FABOOM!

A GUILT GRENADE!

TOUGH LUCK! I DON'T FEEL GUILTY ABOUT ANYTHING!

MEBBE NOT... BUT I BET TH' CHUMP THAT'S WEARIN' YA DOES!

AIN'T THAT RIGHT, GUY? YEAH--*YOU* IN THERE!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! I'M...CRYING!

BEGINNIN' TA FEEL A LITTLE *ASHAMED* O' WHAT YA BEEN UP TA?

LIKE--*MAIMING! MAYHEM! MADNESS! MURDER! MULTIPLE MURDER! MASS* FRAGGIN' *MURDER!* SHEESH, YA'VE RAGED YER WAY ROUND *HALF* TH' FRAGGIN' *UNIVERSE!*

OH MAN! WHAT WOULD YER OLD *MOTHER* THINK OF YA NOW?

MOMMY?

YEAH, *MOMMY!* WHAT WOULD THAT POOR OLD BAT *THINK* IF SHE COULD SEE TH' *BUCKETS O' BLOOD* YA BEEN SPILLIN'? TH' *LIMBS* YA'VE DISMEMBERED? TH' KIDS WHO BECAME *ORPHANS* 'CUZ *YOU* KILLED THEIR *DADDIES?*

YA WICKED, *WICKED* BASTARD!

=BLUB= =SOB= =CRY= I'M SORRY MOMMY =SOB SOB=

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT!

GET ME OFF THIS CREEP!

AT LAST! I GOT TH' FRAGGIN' *DINGUS!*

Indeed it was so. The Main Man had the fraggin' dingus. He held it up to the light, rotating it slightly, the better to appreciate its eerie ancient beauty--

SO THIS IS THE MASK, HUH? HYPNOTIC LITTLE BASTICH, AIN'T YA?

I GOT THIS TERRIBLE URGE TA PUT TH' FRAGGER ON!

The dingus itself wasn't all that unhappy. It had more than an inkling of what was to come. Oh, yes, it also had a new wearer--

SO THIS IS THE MAIN MAN? UGLY BASTARD, AREN'T YOU?

BUT I HAVE THIS TERRIBLE URGE TO PUT YOU ON...!

LISSEN UP, YA FEEB-BUTT DWEEBS!

I WANT MY MOMMY!

WH-WHAT IS IT?

HOLY HELLELUJAH!

WOULDJA LOOK AT THAT!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

ULTIMATE BASTICH? I'LL GIVE YA ULTIMATE FRAGGIN' BASTICH!

I'LL FRAGGIN' CENSORED CENSORED CENSORED CENSORED! AN' THEN I'M GONNA CENSORED CENSORED CENSORED CENSORED, AN' IF THAT AIN'T ENOUGH, I'M CENSORED CENSORED CENSORED FRAGGIN' CENSORED!

BLAM BLAM

FRAGGAFRAGGA!

BLEED BLEED BLEED

BRAAAAP

KWADABLURCH

KABOOM!

SNAP

KRAKLE

POP

FRAGGA BOOOOOOOM

RIM O'THE HOLE

SAY, HANDSOME, AIN'T WE MET BEFORE?

NOT LIKELY, HONEY.

ARE YOU SURE? THERE'S SOMETHING AWFULLY FAMILIAR ABOUT YOUR FACE.

I'M ALMOST POSITIVE I'VE SEEN IT SOMEWHERE ELSE.

NAW. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN HERE--

--RIGHT ON THE FRONT OF MY HEAD.

#%@&*!!! D'JOO SEE HOW FAST HE KILT DEM MUTHAS?!!

S'WHY I SAY WE GOTZA JUMP 'IM, NOW, WHILST HE'S 'STRACTED WITH THAT PUPPET SHOW A 'HIZ.

HEY!! WHAT ARE YOU GINKS WHISPERIN' ABOUT BACK THERE!???!

YER PLANNING TO DO THE MAIN MASK IN, IZZATIT?

WELL, WOTTA YOU GONNA DO ABOUT THAT, BOSS?

GUESS.

YYYYYYAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

WUDDAWE GONNADOO? HEEZ TOO STRONG, TOO FAST. CAN'T GEDDAWAY FRUMIM NO MADDA WHEH WEEGO.

DEN WEEGO WHUH NOBUDDY WOOD EVAH FOLLOWUS--

NOBUDDY SANE, ANYHOO.

SURPRIIIIISE!!

HAPPY DEATH DAY!

HAPPY

NOT FAR OFF...

UHHH, SAY, COULD YOU CALL ME A CAB?

I THINK MY RIDE JUST LEFT.

BROTHER, MONITORS INDICATE A VESSEL IS ABOUT TO EMERGE FROM THE PHASE SPACE ZONE NEARBY.

AN UNFORTUNATE VICTIM OF A BLACK HOLE, BUT LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THE EXPERIENCE?

SO IT WOULD SEEM. THE POOR SENTIENT, TRANSPORTED MANY LIGHT-YEARS FROM HIS POINT OF ORIGIN, WILL BE INJURED AND DISORIENTED.

QUICKLY, BROTHER, WE MUST PREPARE BALMS AND BANDAGES.

AND AFTER A CALMING POETRY READING, WE CAN EXPLAIN TO HIM--

SHAKOW!

DAMN! I'D LIKE TO TRY THAT RIDE AGAIN!

YEAH, WE COULD DO THAT-- ONLY AIN'T WE ON THE TRAIL OF A BOUNTY?

JABBERIN' JUDAS!! I ALMOST FORGOT!

I SHOULD BE LOOKIN' FOR THE SCRATCHER WHO WUZ WEARING THIS MASK BEFORE THE SCRATCHER WHO WUZ WEARING IT BEFORE I WUZ!

RIGHT. SO IF WE WANT THE BILLION CREDS, WE BETTER GET MOVIN', CLYDE.

BLAM!

PALLY, IN MY WORLD, THAT KINDA CABBAGE JUST DON'T SPLIT TWO WAYS.

WE?!

HOWEVER, THE SEARCH IS STALLED IN THE STARTING GATE WHEN...

HEY! WHERE THE HELL IS EVERYBODY?!?!

S'LIKE A STINKIN' GHOST TOWN, HERE. JUST LIKE THE OTHER CITIES ON THIS MUDBALL. I'M NOT FINDIN' NOBODY THIS WAY.

CLOSED

YOU LOOKS LIKE A LOOTAH TA ME--

AH, COMPANY AT LAST.

--AND MY UNCA, HE SAYS I'M S'POSED TA HURT ANY LOOTAHS I FIND WHILE EVUH-BODY'S AWAY.

HOW'D I MISS SPOTTING YOU, BINKY?

SO I'M GONNA HAVE TA HURT YOU, IS WHAT I'M GONNA HAVE TA.

NOW, I DON'T MEAN TO BAD-MOUTH YER UNCLE, BUT I WOULDN'T TRY THAT--

SECURITY

PUNCH!

--IF I WUZ YOU.

YER UNCLE DIDN'T TELL YA' NUTHIN' 'BOUT THIS, DID HE??

UHHH, NO, HE SURE DIDN'T.

GET--GET OFFA ME, YOUSE GUYS! YOUSE IS KILLING ME!!

YOU SHOULD BE SO LUCKY, SPIT FER BRAINS!

UNCA LOUIE, HAAAALP!!!

AND SO...

ALL RIGHT, BINKY. SPILL IT. YOU SAID EVERYONE WHZ AWAY. WHERE'D THEY GO?

;SNIFF; UH UH. I'M NOT SUPPOSED TA TELL ANYBODY THAT, NOT NOBODY!

SUITS ME, SPORT!

I'LL JUST READ YER MIND!

CONSIDERING WHAT A SIMP YOU ARE, IT OUGHTA BE A SHORT READ, INDEED.

SLICE!

AHA!

EVUHBODY'S AT THE FEEL-GOOD GAMES THEY IS

ALL RIGHT, GIRLS, LET'S MOVE!

I'M RIDIN' SHOTGUN!

BEFORE TOO LONG...

400TH INTERSTELLAR FEEL-GOOD GAMES!

YEAH, THIS OUGHTA DO THE TRICK.

EVERY JAMOKE IN THE FRAGGIN' SYSTEM'S HERE FER THESE GAMES.

PRIME PLACE TO START MY S--

SSSATAN!!!!

THAT'S AN AWFULLY NICE HAT, DAD!!

SWIPE!

THIS IS THE SULTAN OF KLYKYKLAT WHOSE "HAT" YOU HAVE SEIZED.

THEN HE CAN AFFORD A NEW DANG LID, CAN'T HE?

WHAK!

BOOM!

SHOOT HIM!

SECURITY BREACH AT ENTRANCE THIRTY ONE! BACKUP REQUESTED!!

SKLATCH!

FWOOSH!

TO SEE THE WORM-RAT TOSS IS ALL I WANTED...

BLAM BLAM
FSSSS
CHOP
HACK
SLICE
CHUK
KRAK
WHAK
PAKOW
SNAP
POP
BAM BAM
PUNT
IZZAK IZZAK
KRAKK

SITUATION EXCEEDS PRESENT SECURITY CAPABILITIES.
WAK
AM PROCEEDING WITH A TACTICAL WITHDRAWAL.
SPLAT CHUNK

I DON'T THINK SO, SAM.
YOU STARTED ALL THIS AND IF YOU WON'T SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END--

PLUCK! PLUCK!
--I WILL!

CLAK

ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF CAPPING THIS YELLOW-BELLIED BAG OF BILE?

BOOM!

EYE!

EYE!

NOOOOO!

THOSE OPPOSED?

PLAAAT!

♪ PHWEE-WEET ♫

THE EYES HAVE IT!

BOIK!

BOIK!

OKAY, CLOWN, LAUGH IT UP--

--YOU GO ON HAVING FUN, AND IN ANOTHER SECOND--

JUST A LEETLE TO THE RIGHT, STOSH.

GAAAH!

SPLADOOM!

WHEW! I DID IT!

THAT'S RIGHT. I DID IT, WHEN NOBODY ELSE COULD.

I'M A HERO. A BIG HERO.

AND MY FATHER SAID I'D NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING.

YOU SURE SHOWED THE OLD BASTARD, DIDN'T YA'?

KRAK!

SPLAK!

WOTTA YOU KNOW. THESE GAMES REALLY DO MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD.

BUT NOW THAT I REALLY LOOK AT THIS HAT--

--IT'S TOO SHOWY FOR ME.

GASP!

AAAND NOW I'M BORED. TIME TO BAIL, I'D SAY.

NOW WHERE'D I LEAVE THAT BIKE?

YOU! SMELL

KABLOOEY

WORSE THAN THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, YES? MY MEANING IS, BLOOD-LUST SATED, AWAY HE WILL GO, YES?

PERHAPS, MY LORD--

"BUT I DOUBT IT."

WHERE ARE YOU?!?

C'MON OUT, YOU PUTRID LITTLE CRAYON-SCRAWIN' PUNK!!

YOU DON'T, AN' I SWEAR I'LL RIP APART EVERY PLANET THAT'S HOME TO EVERY SLOB WHO CAME TO THESE PUKIN' GAMES!!!

SMELL

And so he does.

His vengeance is an insatiable engine fueled by burning wrath, generating a boundless galactic nightmare.

Seas of blood soak the soils of a thousand nations.

Whole worlds are left lifeless, save for trillions of feasting maggots.

The stars weep in his wake.

It's a bad scene.

YOU SMELL

Which becomes an even worse hangover.

OHHHHH.

HUH? 'DIS LOOKS LIKE EARTH. HOW'D I END UP BACK HERE?

ROCKET FUEL

WAIT A SEC. S'ALL COMIN' BACK T'ME.

FEETAL'S GIZZ! WHY'D I DO ALL THAT!?

HOLY FRAGGAROLEY!! THIS!! THIS HERE MASK MADE ME!!

UHHNGH!

I THOUGHT I WAS USING THE DINGUS, BUT IT WAS USING ME ALL ALONG!!

NOT THAT I DIDN'T HAVE FUN, BUT THE *POINT* IS, THE MAIN MAN AIN'T *NOBODY'S* FLUNKY!!

NOT MORE'N ONCE, ANYWAYS!

POW
SPLUTTER
KAFF
POP

MIGHT AS WELL FORGET THE BOUNTY. WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THE BASTICH I'M LOOKIN' FOR--

HEY, 'BO.

BAMF
WHEEZE
SPUT
SPUT
PUFF

--IS SOME LITTLE MIDGET MADE INTO A SUPER-BAD-ASS BY THAT LOUSY MASK!

?

?

IT TAKES A WHILE, BUT FINALLY...

THEN YER SAYIN' WHEN I FLEW INTA THAT BLACK HOLE, I PASSED THROUGH SOME SORTA *TIME WARP?!*

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE AN' A MONTH BACK IN TIME, GIVE OR TAKE.

SO YOU CAME FROM THE *FUTURE*, AND WHILE YOU WAS WEARIN' THAT MASK, YOU DID ALL THE STUFF IN THE *PAST* THAT I WAS HIRED TO STOP IN THE *PRESENT*.

FRAG ME! ALL THIS TIME, I'VE BEEN HUNTIN' *MYSELF!*

KINDA FIGURES, THOUGH. WHO *ELSE* COULD BE THE ULTIMATE BASTICH?

AN' ACCORDIN' T'YOU, THIS OTHER MASK CHARACTER'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SNAG.

THING IS, HOW CAN WE COLLECT THE BILLION CREDS NOW?

YOU CENSORED CENSORED CENSORED CENSORED CENSORED FUGWIT!

I'M FRAGGIN' INNOCENT!!!

HIM! HE'S THE ONE YOU WANT!!

HMMMM. I DON'T KNOW. THIS CREATURE'S APPEARANCE DIFFERS FROM WHAT I RECALL.

LISSEN, MUZZY BOY! I CHASED ALL OVER THE FRAGGIN' UNIVERSE BEFORE I FINALLY FOUND THIS BASTICH.

I GUARAN-FRAGGIN'-TEE HE'S YOUR MAN, AN' IF THAT AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YA!..

'BO, YOU CENSORED CENSORED SUNAVA CENSORED. I'LL GET YOU FER THIS!!!

NOT EXACTLY AN EASY GIG, BUT HARD WORK HAS ITS REWARDS.

AN' I GOT A "NEW" HAWG OUTTA THE DEAL T'BOOT.

'COURSE, I FEEL KINDA BAD DOING THAT TO THE OTHER 'BO...

BOOT!

YEAH, RIGHT!!

HAW HAW HAW HAW HAW

IN THE MEANTIME, BACK ON EARTH...

ON THE NOSE

Late

WHERE THE HELL IS HE?

DAMN LATE

TSK, TSK, TSK.

WELL, I'LL GIVE THAT LOBO FELLOW TEN MORE MINUTES, BUT IF HE DOESN'T SHOW--

--I'LL JUST HAVE TO START WITHOUT HIM.

WORLD EXCLUSIVE BONUS FEATURE: THE MAKING OF LOBO/MASK

DARK HORSE PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON INTERVIEWS THE CREATIVE TEAM OF ALAN GRANT, JOHN ARCUDI, AND DOUG MAHNKE.

Mike: Hi, guys, So, tell me . . . whose idea was it to do a LOBO/MASK team-up?

Alan: I don't know.

John: Me neither.

Doug: It wasn't me.

Mike: John, you're known as a highly original writer, but also very much a solo writer. How did you find working with co-writer Alan Grant?

John: Terrible. He's a creep and a liar.

Mike: Hmm. Alan, how did you feel about working with John?

Alan: Great! I really like him and admire his talents. It was a dream come true for me to even be in the same hemisphere as him.

Mike: Ha ha! You're ribbing me, right, guys? Doug, how did you find working with these two incorrigible japesters?

Doug: It was okay, I guess.

Mike: Never a dull moment, I bet!

Doug: Excuse me?

Mike: Now. I know your editor has a reputation for being a hard taskmasker. What was it like having Bad Dan Raspler in the cat seat?

John: Who's he?

Alan: Didn't he have a '60s chart hit with "Deck of Cards"?

Doug: Wasn't that Prince Far'l and the Arabs? I'm sure this Raspler character was in the book. I'm sure I remember drawing him. Ugly bastich! He's etched in my memory.

Mike: Reading your separate bodies of work, it's clear that all three of you have a number of major influences, in terms of style, characterization, etc. Who or what do you think has had the biggest influence on your careers?

Alan: The Wolf of Kabul.

John: Truman Capote.

Doug: Wink Martindale.

Mike: All kidding aside, what's your favorite book?

John: *The Original of Consciousness in the Breadkdown of the Bicameral Mind*, by Dr. Julian Jaynes.

Alan: *Secret and Suppressed: Banned Ideas and Hidden History*, by Jim Keith.

Doug: *Dick and Janet Go to War.* I wrote it myself.

Mike: Your favorite movie?

Alan: Anything with The Three Stooges in it.

Doug: Anything without The Three Stooges in it.

John: Anything with naked girls.

Mike: And your favorite music?

Doug: King General Bucks Up Pon De Bush Chemists, by King General and the Bush Chemists.

Alan: Please Release Me, by Engelbert Humperdinck.

John: Anything by naked girls. Would you like to know my favorite color? Or foodstuff?

Mike: No thanks. I noticed halfway through the first LOBO/MASK book, you introduce a "story so far" page. I'm intrigued to know if this was deliberate, or just an absentminded oversight?

Alan: It was an absentminded oversight.

John: It was deliberate. Somebody told us that both Lobo and Mask fans have very short attention spans. The same goes for their writers. We put that page in mainly to remind ourselves of what was happening in the story.

Alan: Did we?

Doug: What story? I was just asked to draw a bunch of pictures. Nobody said anything about a story!

Mike: Thanks very much, all three of you. It's been absolutely fascinating sharing the secrets of LOBO/MASK with you. One final question—do you intend to work together again in the future?

John: Together with whom?

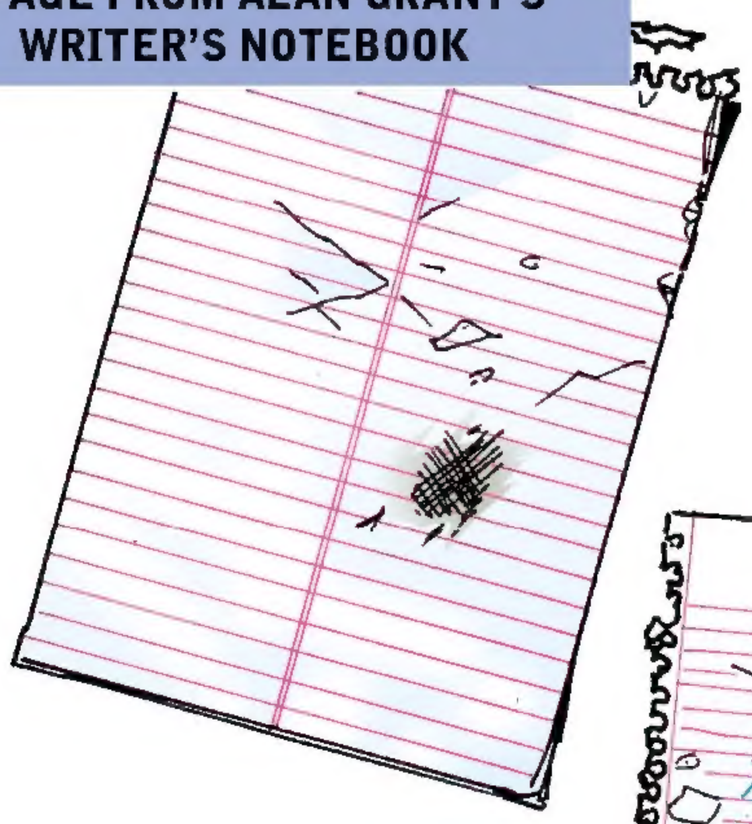
Alan: Yes. Or maybe no. What was the question again?

Doug: I'm going to work until I retire.

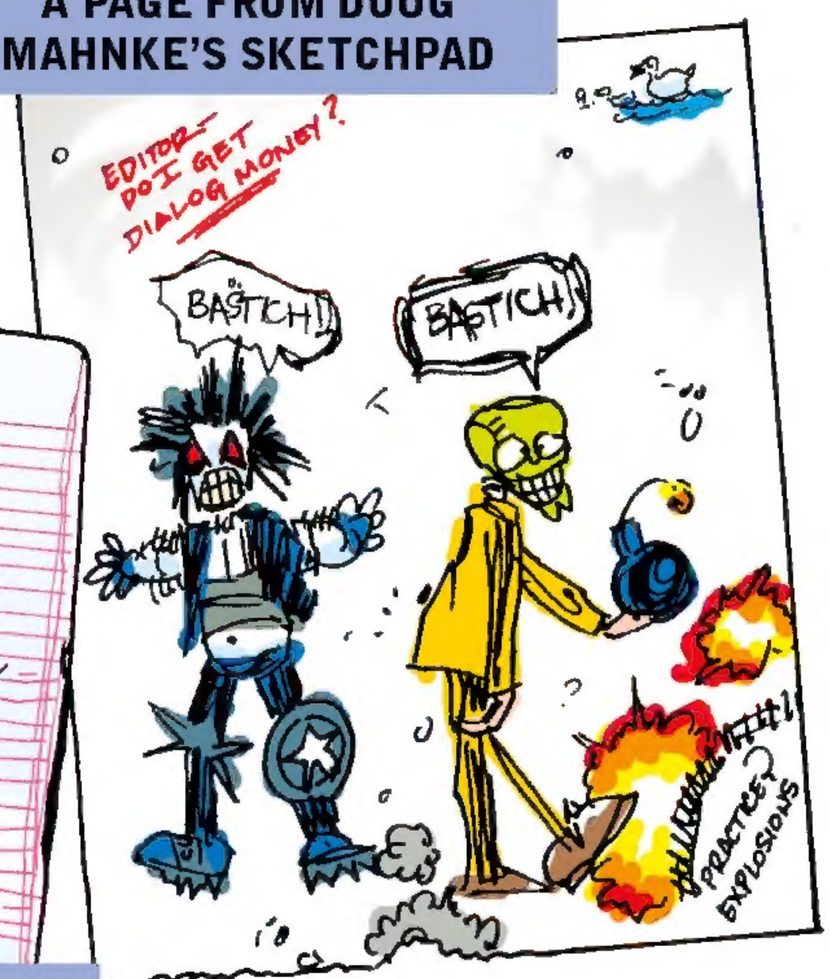
Mike: John Arcudi—Alan Grant—Doug Mahnke—what a team! Heh!

NEVER BEFORE SEEN!

A PAGE FROM ALAN GRANT'S WRITER'S NOTEBOOK



A PAGE FROM DOUG MAHNKE'S SKETCHPAD



A PAGE FROM JOHN ARCUDI'S WRITER'S NOTEBOOK

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOTHAM CITY'S CLOWN PRINCE

of Crime discovers a thousand-year-old relic that will make him invincible? Unfortunately, Batman is about to find out as two of history's most madcap maniacs join forces—literally! And to add insult to injury, Joker/Mask becomes a prime-time television sensation, and you don't want to know how far he'll go to keep his ratings high! Joker/Mask is more fun than a barrel of monkeys—monkeys with hand grenades, that is!

Cole Cash (also known as Grifter) is what you might call an arms enthusiast. Paul Newman (not that Paul Newman) is an antigun activist. Both are in Vegas for a firearms convention, but each is looking to disrupt the show for his own reason—Newman wants to wipe firearms off the face of the earth, and Cash wants to steal a state-of-the-art armament known as the Probability Annihilator. Cash has got a dead-accurate eye—perhaps the best in the world—to back up his play, but Newman's got something that'll outfire any ol' weapon! Newman's got . . . the Mask!

Lobo's Alan Grant is joined by *The Mask*'s John Arcudi and Doug Mahnke as they take the wackiest pair in all of comics to new heights of frag-all frivolity and zany adventure. Bounty-huntin' Lobo tracks down the Ultimate Bastich, a guy who looks like a really, really evil version of the Mask. When the trail leads the Main Man to Earth, the Mask has been donned by a small-time thug named Ira, resulting in a chaotic fight that completely destroys New York City. And that's just the setup. Lobo and the Mask begin their intergalactic quest, but when the Main Man gets close, the Mask screws things up for him at every turn.

Dark Horse Comics/DC Comics: The Mask contains the crazy antics of Dark Horse powerhouse the Mask in cahoots (or not) with DC's greatest warriors *and* villains! Collects *Joker/Mask* #1–#4, *Grifter and The Mask* #1–#2, and *Lobo/The Mask* #1–#2.

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"